WINTER 1992

# Washington

WASHINGTON COLLEGE MAGAZINE

## *Honoring "Swish" Nicholson '36*

JOHN BARTH ON "BROWSING"
A MYSTERIOUS OPERA SINGER VANISHES
HARRY TRUMAN'S HERO

# *Diversity, Celebrations, And Sadness*

This has been an exciting fall at Washington College. The biggest and most culturally diverse freshman class in the College's history raised campus energies to new levels. Ernest Boyer's remarks at Convocation guided our thinking appropriately to distilling the universal experience from a diversity of lifestyles. He broadened our vision and focussed our attention at the same time.

One of the happiest occasions of the semester was a celebration of the shelving of Miller Library's 200,000th volume. Friends, neighbors and bibliophiles joined Washington College faculty, staff, students, and parents to receive a first edition of H. L. Mencken's *Treatise on the Gods* from John Dantz' valuable collection of Maryland books. He has donated the remarkable collection to Washington College. Also on hand was Jonathan Segal '66, a senior editor at Alfred Knopf, who donated a collection of Knopf titles to the Literary House and met with students to talk about publishing. Lucille Wallop, playwright and Eastern Shore resident, was also an honored guest.

The highlight of the day was a talk by Washington College friend and neighbor, John Barth. The novelist provided a lively and curious perspective on books and libraries called "Browsing." Though the Library Celebration was scheduled too long after our deadline to cover in the Reporter section of this issue, we offer excerpts from Barth's musings, along with two other terrific features, in this issue.

We've heard a lot about Harry Truman lately. Leave it to P.J. Wingate to know about the Washington College connection between Truman, FDR, and two Washington College luminaries, Judge T. Alan Goldsborough '99 and Col. Hiram Brown, former chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors. With characteristic wit and charm, Dr. Wingate has shed light on some little-known, but important, pieces of Washington College's past.

Garry Clarke began his search for Polyna Stoska during his sabbatical leave last spring. What started as mild curiosity about an item in *Opera News* developed into full-fledged fascination with a gifted singer and actress who performed all over the world during one of the most turbulent times of this century. Professor Clarke plans to write a book about Stoska. In the meantime, he has expanded what was originally his sabbatical report to detail his efforts to unravel the mystery surrounding an opera great.

This fall also brought sadness to Washington College. The death of one of our students, Edward A. Schroeder (see page 6) drew the Washington College family closer together. At a memorial service on campus, Ed was remembered by President Trout, by his fellow drama students, and by his teachers. In a community this small, each person is closely connected. This makes the loss of one member especially hard, but it also makes life here especially good.

Finally, I wish to thank Doug Rose '86 for sharing his thoughts on the AIDS epidemic (see "Currents") and how it has affected his life and the lives of other Washington College alumni. I know this was a difficult piece for Doug to write, but he felt it was important to speak to us. We owe it to him, and to ourselves, to accept his challenge: to work in every way we can to end this epidemic that threatens to deprive each one of us of somebody we love.

—MDH

## *Correction*

It was incorrectly reported in the "Class Notes" section of the Fall 1992 issue that Kimberley Sands '75 was recently married to Mark Thomas. Kimberly and Mark have, in fact, been married for several years and, though we referred to Ms. Sands as Kimberly Sands Thomas, she has retained her maiden name. We apologize for the error.

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*About the Cover:* Friends, neighbors, and sports fans gathered in downtown Chestertown to dedicate a statue of William B. "Swish" Nicholson '36. Photo: J. Tyler Campbell '76.

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WASHINGTON COLLEGE

THE REPORTER

# *Creating Core Curriculum From Universal Experience*

As keynote speaker at Fall Convocation, Ernest L. Boyer, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, explored the direction he believes American education should take. While advocating multiculturalism as a means to enrich education, Boyer emphasized the importance of cultivating a sense of unity among the human family.

Of course each individual is different, each culture unique, and we should celebrate those things that make us different, he said, yet we should not lose sight of what makes us human.

Boyer suggests in his book, *Quest for Common Learning*, that the core curriculum in the nation's colleges and schools be organized not on the basis of the academic disciplines but on the basis of universal human experiences. In his address he outlined eight human commonalties that might provide the framework for a core of common learning.

"First, at the most basic level we all share the universal experiences of birth and growth and death," he said. "The life cycle binds us all together and yet the sad truth is that most students go through years of formal learning without being asked to reflect on the mystery of their own existence. Not understanding conception. Not considering the sacredness of their own bodies. Not learning how to sustain wellness or pondering the imperative of death.

"I am suggesting that quality education means helping students understand these most basic human experiences and discover how they differ from one culture to another."

The second commonality is language. "I would like to see a core curriculum [with] a study not just of the parts of speech but how language profoundly shapes our lives. Not just about syntax but about the power of social engagement. All students should be required to complete a course in expository writing and oral discourse, prove their capacity to think critically and integrate ideas through writing, and complete a course on the ethics of communication.

"I am suggesting that educating students in a multicultural world means teaching students that language is a sacred trust and that truth is the obligation we assume when we are empowered with the use of words."

Another universal language is art. "I find it fascinating that, when we make judgments about the civility of another culture, we often do it on the artifacts called art — the pottery, the cave paintings. Yet equally impressive and distressing is the fact that in America today school boards call the arts a frill, which gives us some signal as to how our culture will be judged in the centuries ahead.

"Consider how Salvador Dali's painting, *The Persistence of Memory*, can profoundly touch any person haunted by the restlessness of passage of time. And when Picasso confronted the unspeakable agonies of war, the dismembered child, the scream of the bereft mother, the shattered home, and put them on a huge canvas called *Guernica*, he made a universal statement about destruction that can be felt in the heart of every human being.. . . I am suggesting that for the most intimate, the most profound and most moving hu-

*President Trout presents Ernest L. Boyer an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at Fall Convocation as Ermon Foster, Registrar Emeritus, assists.*

man experiences we turn to music and to dance and to visual arts to express feelings that words cannot convey, and this is true for all people on the planet."

The fourth universal commonality Boyer illustrated is human reflection upon a shared sense of time. "Quality education means asking students to become familiar with their own heritage and tradition. I know no more important effort than to inquire into the history and the roots of our culture and also, perhaps, to reflect on what might be the nature of the culture that we are creating. But in addition to that, to inquire increasingly into the roots and traditions of other cultures as well."

The fifth commonality is social structure. "All people on the planet hold membership in groups and institutions that consequentially shape their lives," Boyer said. "I would like to see in the core curriculum of the future a study of groups and institutions comparing one culture with another."

All humans are connected to the ecology of the planet. "David, my three-year-old grandson in a Mayan village, understands his connectedness to nature very well as he chases birds and bathes in the river and watches corn being picked and pounded into tortillas. He knows the ecology of the planet in a very fundamental way, and that it is a part of him," Boyer said. "But children in our culture who grow up with appliances in asphalt jungles with pre-cooked food find it much more difficult to discover their connectedness to the ecology, and to our peril. We must urgently reinforce the fact that our very survival on this planet increasingly will depend on our ability to respond sensitively to the earth home we share together."

Work, too, is universal. "Through the prism we call consuming and producing one could get a powerful insight into the commonalties as well as the dissimilarities around this experience we all share," he said. "I do believe it is imperative that somehow consumption and production and the need for our lives to be equitably balanced need to be a part of the search of common learning."

Boyer's final point was the universal search for meaning in life. Students should be encouraged to find meaning in service to others, in interaction with people of different ages.

"I have suggested that while we are all different we are at the same time very much alike. We are all born and live and die. We all send messages to each other. We all respond to music and dance and the visual arts. We all recall the past and anticipate the future. We are all members of groups and institutions. We are all inseparably part of nature. We all engage in producing and consuming. We all seek to give meaning to our lives. And with all the talk about separations and divisions, this is the glue, the social cohesion that holds it all together and it is here, in these human commonalities, that the spirit of community can be forged.

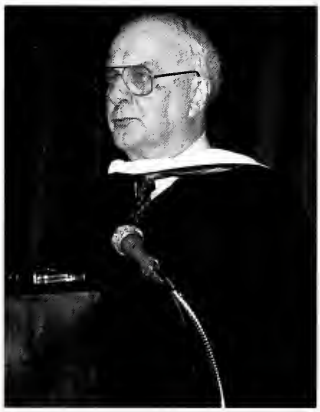
"But here at the very end I would like to underscore an absolutely crucial point," he continued. "A truly authentic spirit of community simply cannot be achieved without human justice. It cannot be superimposed on the anguish of hurt and prejudice. Frankly I am enormously troubled by the growing gap in America today between the privileged and the poor. I am troubled that in this, the most affluent nation in the world, one out of every four chil-

## *WC Honors Former Vice President Of Aspen Institute*

In accepting the honorary doctor of letters degree at Fall Convocation, James G. Nelson, Trustee Emeritus, Director of Wye Institute, and retired Executive Vice President of Aspen Institute, called Washington College on the Eastern Shore of Maryland "truly a special place within a special place. "

College President Charles H. Trout paid tribute to Nelson, "whose life's work has been to benefit his fellow man and improve his part of the world." Nelson has had a long association with both Wye and Aspen Institutes, and served for ten years on the College Board. Nelson recalled the help he received from Washington College with the noteworthy summer educational program for gifted students upon which the state based its Gifted and Talented Program.

"Dan Gibson helped establish the criteria and select the first youngsters to take part in that program. Joe McLain was also very active in it. He came enthusiastically to every session to introduce the students to the wonders of crystals in the morning and the joys of lacrosse in the afternoon. And if the program had an intellectual light, it was provided by Norman James," Nelson said.



*James G. Nelson*

Nelson alluded to President Trout's Inaugural Address in which he suggested that the Eastern Shore of Maryland poses special educational opportunities for Washington College students.

"In this challenging age of near constant and often transforming change where wondrous technologies shrink time and distance while multiplying everything else," Nelson said, "one sometimes has difficulty in finding the center and making right choices and maintaining equilibrium. At those times it is reassuring to know a feeling of belonging, to experience the strength of shared values. To take pride in sustained traditions all within an encompassing sense of place past and present. I have learned from my fruitful association with the College and my service on its Board that one need not want for any of those good things at Washington College on the Eastern Shore of Maryland."

dren under the age of six is officially classified as poor. I am troubled that hundreds of thousands of little babies in this country do not have good nutrition because the federal WIC program is underfunded. I consider it a national disgrace that the Head Start Program, which prepares disadvantaged three- and four-year-olds for school, serves less than one-half the eligible children nearly 30 years after it was authorized by Congress because presumably we simply don't have the money. Why is it that we can fund space stations and bail out the S & L's and never seem to have enough money for our children?," he said.

"Here, then, is my conclusion. Let's celebrate diversity. Let's reaffirm community. But let's also acknowledge that terrible injustices still persist and pledge to build a better world for all of us, but most especially for our children. I do not expect miracles overnight and yet is it my deepest wish that David, my three-year-old grandson in Belize, and Julie, his three-year-old cousin in New Jersey, who speak different languages and have different colored skins, still will grow up knowing that down deep inside they are truly members of the same human family. To me this is what community is all about."

Boyer was presented with the honorary doctor of humane letters.

*Senator Eugene J. McCarthy joined Washington College students in the Coffee House to watch the vice presidential debates. McCarthy's visit to campus was sponsored by the Louis L. Goldstein Program in Public Affairs and featured lectures by the senator on citizenship, politics, and poetry.*

## *New Grant Helps Support Scientific Instrumentation*

The science programs at Washington College got another boost recently with a successful proposal to the National Science Foundation - Instrumentation and Laboratory Improvement (ILI) Program for a high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC). The proposal was submitted last November by Rick Locker, associate professor of chemistry, and David Russell, assistant professor of biology. This is the fifth ILI grant that Washington College has received since 1986.

NSF awarded the College a grant of $19,700 towards the purchase of the HPLC. A Hewlett-Packard Model 1050 HPLC system has been ordered, and should be on campus before the end of the fall semester. This type of instrument is used to separate a complex mixture into its components. Once this separation is achieved each component can be identified and its concentration determined.

The HPLC will be used in introductory chemistry courses, upper level biology and chemistry courses, and in the research of students and faculty. Environmental studies at Washington College will be significantly enhanced because of the availability of this instrument. "The combination of the new HPLC and the Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer, purchased with a previous NSF-ILI grant, gives the College capabilities comparable to major research universities for environmental investigations focusing on the fates of agricultural chemicals," Locker says.

Professors Locker and Russell plan to collaborate on several projects related to the fates and effects of pesticides in the environment. The instrument will also be integrated into Washington College's NSF-Young Scholars Summer Program in forensic science for gifted high school students. Students in that program, for example, will use the instrument to analyze the ink from a ransom note.

## *Coca-Cola, Clayton Fund Award Minority Scholarships*

Two grants totaling $35,000 are providing scholarships for minority students at Washington College this year. The Coca-Cola Foundation of Atlanta, Georgia, has awarded $20,000 and The Clayton Fund of Houston, Texas, has made a grant of $15,000. Both foundations have supported minority scholarships at Washington College previously.

"We are delighted with these renewed commitments to our efforts to expand the cultural and ethnic diversity of our campus," President Charles H. Trout said. "With their support, we are making significant strides in raising the profile of Washington College in the black community nationwide, and we are profoundly grateful."

Minority student enrollment at WC has dramatically increased in the past year. When African American, Hispanic, Native American, and Asian American students are combined, the Class of 1996 is composed of 15 percent minority students, up from five percent for the Class of 1994. In two years, Washington College has more than doubled the total number of minority students on campus from 28 to 79, and the College has now reached a total of nearly nine percent minority enrollment. This represents a record for Washington College and brings minority enrollment more in line with the nation's leading private liberal arts and sciences institutions.

# *Teaching For America*

"Some days I think I have the best job in the whole world. Some days I am not sure how I will make it to the end of the day."

Audra Philippon '88 is Regional Director in Baltimore for Teach For America, a national teacher corps that recruits recent college graduates to commit to teach for two years in "under-resourced" public schools across the United States. Her job is to help make sure some of the neediest children in the United States have an equal opportunity to an education, and that caring, qualified people have the opportunity to teach them.

It is a challenge that she and 1,800 other young people around the country have accepted willingly. "At Washington College, through my sociology studies and my association with Dr. Sean O Connor, I came to believe that every person has to assume some responsibilty for the society in which we live. Everybody has to do his or her part for it to work. It took me several years and several jobs to figure out what this means for me. Now my time is dedicated to making it possible for good people to teach needy children, and I am doing what I can to raise the public image of teaching."

That is not an easy task when the realities for teachers of students in poorly-equipped schools are so grim. The appeal is the opportunity they have to make a difference in these young children's lives.

"Some of their students are reading three to four grades below reading level," Philippon says of her 75 teachers in Baltimore. "Some high school classrooms have more than 50 students. Some teachers are teaching in rooms without blackboards or windows, let alone books and paper and enough desks to go around," she says.

And in some cases, these young people are putting their lives on the line simply by walking into inner city schools. "This year, Baltimore was the most popular site requested for placement by corps members. They selected Baltimore because

*Audra Philippon '88*

they thought it was one of the more tame cities compared to cities known for violence, like Washington, D.C.," says Philippon.

"They quickly learned otherwise. Since August we have had a corps member witness a murder, three have had their cars vandalized or stolen, two have had their apartments broken into, two have had a death in the family, one has been hit by a car, one saw a parent pour gasoline over a teacher and try to set the teacher on fire, and one of our teachers had to break up a fight between third graders armed with razor blades. Just yesterday, a seventh grader miscarried her baby during class," Philippon says.

"Despite the challenges, these people are excited about education. They are committed and motivated for the right reasons, turning down fancy job offers and graduate school to teach. They are survivors. One of the things I like most about my job is getting to know our teachers."

Even as a college student, Philippon seemed destined to make a difference. During the summer before her senior year, she was one of a select group of students across the country to participate in Leadership America, a ten-week leadership training program. She spent a week with the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina, a week with Outward Bound in Colorado, and served an internship with the vice president of Gannett News Service In Washington, DC. It was the coordinator of Leadership America that put Wendy Kopp, TFA's founder, in contact with Philippon. She has been with TFA two years.

As Regional Director, Philippon directs the professional development of the 75 Baltimore corps members, helping them to obtain the necessary certification to teach kindergarten through twelfth grade, and providing professional and personal assistance in and out of the classroom. She works with the State Department, Baltimore City school district administrators, local universities, and educational foundations to find placements and set up a network of support for these new teachers while they absorb the realities of teaching in the inner city.

"It is exciting to be involved with policy-making," she says. "We are working with various agencies to create a new and alternative route to attract people with relevant life experience into the classroom, who previously wouldn't be allowed to teach. At TFA, we believe excellent teachers are made through experience, assuming you start with energetic, dedicated people with mastery of their subject."

Since its inception in 1989, TFA corps members have served as teachers and role models for more than 200,000 students. Sixty percent of the original 489 original recruits are still teaching; 10% are now pursuing graduate degrees in education. The Baltimore City school district has already applied to TFA for 100 more teachers for next year.

"I really appreciate the Baltimore City school administration's commitment to TFA," adds Philippon.

"I believe a high percentage of our recruits will stay in the profession," Philippon says. "Even if they don't, they will have an experience that will affect the rest of their lives. They will be sensitized, well-informed advocates for educational improvement. Even if they choose not to be teachers for the rest of their lives, they will be responsible business leaders, better parents, and concerned citizens."

*Constance Pope (left) and Jennifer Del Nero received Middendorf Merit Scholarships for superior scholastic achievement and exemplary leadership.*

# Two Future Teachers Earn Middendorf Scholarships

Two of Washington College's most deserving undergraduates, Jennifer Del Nero of Catonsville and Constance Pope of Chestertown, are recipients of Middendorf Merit Scholarships, one-year scholarships established in 1988 through an endowment gift from Baltimore's Middendorf Foundation. The scholarships awarded under the College's Middendorf Scholars Program are worth $6,000 each.

The Middendorf Scholars' Program is intended to recognize and reward Washington College students who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and exemplary leadership within the student body. These scholarships, awarded to rising seniors each year, are considered one of the highest academic honors to be conferred upon an undergraduate at Washington College.

Both recipients are interested in teaching as a career.

Jennifer Del Nero, an English major and SGA President, is a visible campus leader. She has worked for the campus newspaper, served as a resident assistant, and became involved with the Student Government Association. Del Nero has worked with the disabled at the Easter Seals Camp and last year helped organize a tutoring program for local elementary and middle school children.

An outstanding scholar, she has earned several other honors and awards for academic achievement, including the Hague Scholarship for future teachers and the George Washington Scholar award.

Constance Pope, a biology major, has consistently maintained the highest grade point average in her class. At Fall Convocation she also was awarded the Visitors and Governors Prize Scholarship for that achievement.

# NSF Funds Internet Connection

A $27,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will make a vast array of remote software, databases, and archives available to Washington College faculty and students through Internet, a sophisticated computing network linking college and university mainframes around the globe. The connection will be operational by January 1993.

"We are excited about the wide possibilities Internet brings to our campus, and we plan to make maximum use of this extraordinary resource," President Charles H. Trout said. "Washington College has long been in the forefront of academic computing programs nationwide, and we are delighted that this grant will keep us on the cutting edge of technology."

Washington College students and faculty across all disciplines will benefit from the Internet connection. Not only will they be able to access databases and software repositories currently available only at large research universities, but they will enjoy vastly enhanced opportunities for collaborative work through the availability of rapid communication with scholars at other institutions.

Since its inception in 1983, Internet has grown from two interconnected

# In Memoriam

EDWARD A. SCHROEDER
1970-1992

Edward A. Schroeder, a senior drama student and lighting assistant at Washington College, died on October 16th, 1992 in a fatal accident in Tawes Theater. He apparently was electrocuted while working on a chandelier to be used as a prop in a production of his own play, *Bagels From the Lower East Side*. Schroeder was staging the original play as his senior drama thesis.

Schroeder was remembered by the Washington College community for his involvement in many theatrical projects, including recent productions of *Pippin* and *Angels In America*.

At a campus memorial service for Schroeder on October 26, President Trout said, "Ed taught us the importance of humor. He taught us about loyalty. He taught us that by working as part of a team, great things could be accomplished. He taught us about dedication to whatever the production, to whatever the project. He taught us about excellence, always tempered by a self-deprecating sense of humor."

Schroeder was 22 years old. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schroeder of South Salem, New York.

networks supported by U.S. government, the Advanced Research Projects Network, and the Military Network, to more 2,200 networks worldwide. Originally serving federal agencies such as NASA, the Departments of Energy and Defense, and other research interest groups, it now reaches colleges, universities and industry as well. Internet spans CREN/CSNET, the Defense Data Net, the Energy Sciences Network, the NASA Science Internet, the National Science Foundation Network, and the Terrestrial Wide Band Network, among others.

# *Junior Fellows Find Adventure Abroad*

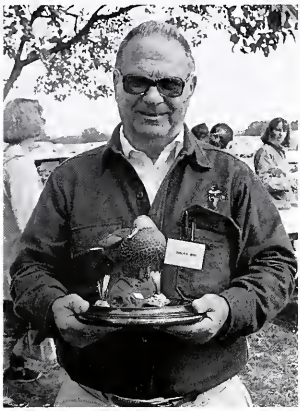
*by Samantha Johnston '96*

While many of their classmates found jobs at the beach or in their hometowns this past summer, three Washington College students traveled far afield for their summer's work — to U.S. embassies in the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Ecuador. Their work was part of an intern experience developed by the departments of political science and international studies and funded by the Society of Junior Fellows.

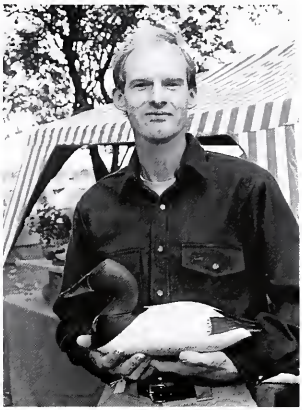
Junior Lionel Dyson interned in the Philippines in Manila. His job as a political assistant mirrored the majority of the duties carried out by an actual political officer, from updating files kept on each province and proof-reading cables, to attending state functions and going on provincial reporting trips.

The first intern allowed in the Philippines in three years, Dyson explains, "there was a security risk for anyone who wasn't a foreign officer," adding that "this was the first time the environment was stable enough" for this kind of program.

Still, each trip out into the field carried risk. Dyson recounted a harrowing episode in which the bullet-proof truck he was traveling in broke down in the tiny village of Pampanga. The interns and supervisors had to get out and push the vehicle to a local mechanic. The irony of the U.S. embassy representatives having to get out and push, much to the amusement of the locals, did not escape Dyson, who ruefully admits, "a bulletproof truck is useless when you're pushing it."



*Charles R. Berry '36*



*Brian Bodt '85*

# *Alumni Carvers Display Birds At Remington*

National Hunting and Fishing Day lured plenty of sportsmen, collectors, and craftspeople to Remington Farms near Chestertown on a bright fall day in September, including two Washington College alumni carvers.

Visitors found Brian Bodt '85 busily carving duck heads from blocks of sugar pine for his hunting decoys; across the way Charles R. Berry '36 stood proudly over his intricate carvings of waterfowl and shore birds.

The style of the two carvers is very different: Bodt's, smooth, life-sized birds, complete with bottom ballasts and anchor rings, are meant for the gunning pond (although he admits that most probably settle on fireplace mantels). Berry's birds are purely decorative — realistic miniatures with elaborate detail. Still, each carver finds that his craft appeals to an audience that appreciates the beauty of nature.

For Bodt, whose interest in carving was sparked by his father's collection of antique decoys and by his own experiences hunting in the Havre de Grace, MD, area, decoy carving is nearly a full-time job. Aside from the three months of the year he devotes to the family's Christmas tree farm, Bodt spends his working hours producing birds native to the American flyway. Bodt estimates he produces more than 500 birds a year.

Some of his birds are on display at the Havre de Grace decoy museum, where he often shares his craft with visiting schoolchildren. In 1986 his blackhead decoy was selected as the Maryland state bird for the conservation organization Ducks Unlimited.

Berry, of Salisbury, picked up his craft almost by accident. The retired educator began carving about 20 years ago. When the hunting laws got "too stringent," he says, he put away his gun and picked up a knife, a burning tool, and some sandpaper, and taught himself to capture in still life the birds he had once hunted. For Berry, who clocked more than 100 hours in creating one duck in a pond setting, carving is purely a hobby.

Using bass wood from the linden tree, Berry carves his birds in sections — head, body, feet, and wings are then joined and painted. A small Canada goose mounted on driftwood, he says, takes eight to ten hours to make.

Berry's woodworking talent has not gone unnoticed: his work has garnered several awards, including recognition at the World Championships in Ocean City and a show in Alaska, and a first place prize at a gathering in Illinois.

*Maria Jerardi keeps the lines of communication open with Washington during a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh this summer. Jerardi is an international studies major in the pre-medical program.*

Dyson, who is taking the Foreign Service Exam this year, is pleased with the great deal of information he learned about Southeast Asia since the focus of the entrance exam has shifted in recent years to concentrate more on economic development in Third World countries.

Maria Jerardi, a junior, was sent to Dacca, Bangladesh, to intern at the U.S. Embassy as a Junior Foreign Service Officer.

Her duties included clerical work such as reading cable traffic and writing cables to Washington, D.C., but she also had opportunities to discuss topics concerning "U.S. national interest" with U.S. government officials.

Jerardi's position allowed her the privilege of attending a meeting of the United Nations High Committee on Refugees. Impressed, she remarks, "It was exciting to be able to see all of the different donor nations interrelate." Jerardi, no stranger to philanthropic efforts, has most recently been involved with an effort to relieve victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida.

Her most exciting experience occurred during a two-day general strike in mid-June. In Bangladesh, she explains, when there's a general strike, everyone pours out into the streets to demonstrate, "and it's not a peaceful demonstration like it is in the U.S." Jerardi and her co-workers were urged to stay either in the embassy or in their homes, but were barred from the streets for their own safety.

Still exploring various career fields, Jerardi nonetheless considers herself influenced by the internship. "This experience showed me that I'd really like to live abroad," she concludes.

Senior Stephanie Tennyson interned as a junior foreign service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador. In addition to sending out confidential cables, Tennyson collected biographical data on Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen, elected just last July, as well as his Vice President and Cabinet.

Political VIPs were a common sight in Quito, as she had opportunity to

# A Conversation With Mari Jo Buhle

*When Mari Jo Buhle, a women's historian, visited campus in September, College President Charles H. Trout, an historian himself, met with her informally to discuss her work. What follows are excerpts from their discussion.*

CT: You are considered a pioneer in women's history in this country, and yet you really came of political age in the 1960s when our understanding of women's pasts was minimal. When you were growing up, what was your understanding of the place of women in American history?

MJB: I can honestly say I had no understanding of it at all. I never heard of "feminism" until 1967 or 1968. The discovery that feminism has this very rich history was quite a remarkable phenomenon. A number of us were associated with what was called "New Left" history, which emphasized the rediscovery of a hidden past, and women's history seemed to be a part of that.

CT: How do you think that women's history evolved in the 1970s, then into the 1980s and up to the present? As we look at that rediscovery of a hidden past, an obscure past, what do you see as the chief landmarks?

MJB: That's a big question. I see women's history having two or three broad periods. There was, of course, the pioneering work of the late '60s and early 1970s, which was in some quarters a simple rediscovering of a past that had been denied. Many questions that were raised during that early phase were provoked by some of the political topics that were pressing women at that time. For example, one of the richest things in women's history is the topic of women in the labor force, which has a lot to do with the realization that we were not all going to grow up to be simply housewives and mothers. We came to realize that most women do have to work for the bulk of their adult lives.

The other important questions in the 1970s were associated with sexuality and reproduction, and this concern reflected the era of sexual revolution of the late 1960s. It was a time when contraception and, eventually, abortion were legalized, so that much of the early scholarship was shaped around these issues. Also, the broadest thing in women's history was the search for ways in which women organize — what we call "the women's culture and politics model" — that is, looking at how women associated with one another in very gender-conscious ways in the 19th and 20th centuries. It was what some historians now call a "search for sisterhood," which, in its present phase, is what is now being challenged by a younger group of scholars. This newer scholarship tends to acknowledge differences among women, and it holds that political disagreements were a function of either racial, class, ethnic, or regional differences.

CT: I am interested in your thoughts about the place of women's history in

meet President Ballen and members of the U.S. presidential delegation who traveled to Ecuador for his inauguration.

Never short on initiative, Tennyson started a Human Rights Report to monitor Ecuadoran policies. This, in addition to attending the embassy's weekly staff meetings, keeping track of election results, and assembling the monthly political table, made for a busy internship.

Her most vivid memory of Ecuador, however, did not come from any visit with a high-ranking official, but was simply the drive into Quito on the first day of the job. "To see the metropolitan city surrounded by giant mountains," she describes, "was breathtaking."

*Stephanie Tennyson enjoyed the beauty of the Ecuadoran landscape.*

Shying away from the Foreign Service as a career choice ("You're just constantly moving," she explains), Tennyson is looking into the State Department or another international organization to allow her to travel but keep a home base in the States.

"My experience made me appreciate what I have in the U.S: the freedoms, the things we take for granted that most Ecuadorians have never seen," she concludes. "To witness the polarity between rich and poor made my experience very meaningful."

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an undergraduate curriculum. What role do you think it plays? What is the argument for inclusion?

MJB: I don't know if I can make a good argument for inclusion. First, the absence of past study makes it a very open field. Second, women's history can introduce the study of history to many students who otherwise would not have done so. I try to show how history can be made meaningful. I view history as a means of self-exploration, in a collective sense of what my

generation means and how to break out of what might be existential loneliness. A lot of students who come into it don't understand that history has that power, and some go from my course into becoming history majors and even go on to graduate school. There are other courses in the curriculum that can do this, but I think my women's history survey attracts a number of unsuspecting students. That has been my greatest feeling of accomplishment.

CT: I agree that women's history provides a tremendous hook. My own bias is toward the field of social history, and I saw the study of women as a fascinating way of getting at some key topics in American social history. When you move from a single history course, or a year-long survey, into the question of a Women's Studies curriculum or a Women's Studies major, I wonder what you would have to say about the utility of such a program, again in an undergraduate liberal arts setting?

MJB: I am at a school that is in some ways on the rear guard in this. Brown has instituted a Women's Studies concentration only within the last ten years and is probably one of the last of the major universities to do so. I have mixed feelings, being rooted in my own discipline. I have trouble reaching across the barriers into Women's Studies at large and also have some reservations about what indeed it is preparing students to do. Our own experience at Brown is that most students work within a conventional disciplinary or established interdisciplinary program and take Women's Studies to sharpen their insights.

CT: Women who departed from their role in the 19th century were pillaried for becoming manlike. I wonder if there are some echoes from that 19th century in today's argument against Women's Studies. Do you think there is any continuity between the anti-suffrage argument of the 19th century and opposition to Women's Studies in contemporary America?

MJB: I'm sure it's there, especially now, when many of the questions about "women's place" have been revived, especially in presidential campaigns. What is equally interesting is that within Women's Studies one could find the same argument. There is a sizable group of scholars associated with the wing of feminism called "cultural feminism," which sees women as essentially different from men and having their own set of values. These values, according to cultural feminists, are based on nurturance and maternalism, on women's supposed capacity for being in touch with nature and the cosmos. The cultural feminists do indeed put forth arguments that women should eschew men lest they pollute their own sensibilities. I can see that argument from the outside against Women's Studies, but I can also see it as something that entangles scholars within the field as well. It has been a muddy question from the 19th century on, because many of the women we now consider anti-suffragists who campaigned against women getting the vote, would not be called anti-feminists on many campuses today. In fact, some women, such as Mary Daly, might see them as their predecessors for precisely these same reasons of thinking of women as somehow special in both their biological makeup and, more importantly, in terms of their social responsibilities. It is an old question and it is not going to go away.

*Kristin Coyne (left) and Brenda Stanley were awarded paid pre-doctoral research internships at USC.*

# *Psychology Students Test Grad School Waters*

Psychology majors Kristin Coyne, a senior, and Brenda Stanley, a junior, realized just how valuable their Washington College education was when they were selected from a pool of 150 applicants to fill two of ten slots in the University of South Carolina's summer internship program in psychology.

The two women spent the summer as research fellows at USC. They are both committed now to going on to graduate school to pursue careers — one in gerontology, the other in industrial psychology.

"It was a real honor to have this kind of research experience and the opportunity to take graduate level courses," says Coyne. "And it was invaluable to be able to see how the program operates. Now I feel as though I have an edge — I know what graduate schools are looking for in research experience, and I know what to expect."

Coyne spent her summer collecting research for an on-going learning and memory project on age-related differences in the performance of cognitive tasks. Her job was to collect data on participants in the 65+ age group and compare it with data collected from those same participants two years earlier. She and her team found that their spatial, verbal, working memory, and learning skills had not declined during that time. Their findings will be presented at a meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.

"Washington College gave me a definite edge," Coyne says. "I was more comfortable in a graduate school setting because I was familiar with research procedures and doing statistics and analysis. My research design and physio-psychology class came in real handy. I found out that the Washington College psychology department is teaching me the right things."

Brenda Stanley's project dealt with judgment and decision-making, and how people rate ambiguous terms in language. Her research group devised two pilot studies to consider how the meaning of words is influenced by their context and speaker.

As an example, Brenda says: "Is the word 'ambitious' positive or negative? Well, that depends on whether you are talking about a man or a woman, and who's doing the talking."

Brenda, who has set her sights on the graduate school programs at Purdue, Michigan, or Texas A&M, aspires to be an organizational psychologist in a business setting.

"Having an internship experience like this helps you get your foot in the door [of graduate schools]," says Stanley. "But the one thing I learned is that research is not for me. I want to work with people to help them solve their problems."

# *Cole Brings Women's Basketball To Athletic Line-up*

Taking the first step to establish women's basketball as an intercollegiate varsity sport, Washington College has hired a young woman from the Midwest this fall to serve as the women's basketball coach.

Lanée Cole, formerly an assistant coach at Central Missouri State University, will coach the women's basketball team in club status during this academic year, in anticipation of varsity status within the Centennial Conference next year. In 1993, Washington College changes its sports affiliation from the Middle Atlantic Conference to the newly formed Centennial Conference.

Cole, 27, also will take over the leadership of the women's softball program.

The Minnesota native began her coaching career at Lakeland High School in Missouri, where she was the head coach of girls' basketball and volleyball. In college, Cole played basketball for two years at Iowa Lakes Community College, where the nationally-ranked team compiled a 46-7 record and won two conference championships during her time there.

She earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from Tarkio College in 1987 and received her master's degree in physical education from Central Missouri last year.

"We are genuinely excited about Lanée Cole coming on board as the newest member of our team," says Geoff Miller, Director of Athletics. "Her background demonstrates a commitment to the student-athlete concept we promote here at Washington College."

# *Excerpts From John Barth's Essay: "Browsing"*

*by John Barth*

To help Washington College celebrate the shelving of its 200,000th volume in Miller Library, novelist John Barth visited campus in late October and took the gathered celebrants on a cerebral tour of libraries of the ages, of history, and of literature — browsing, he said, became "my method as well as subject matter." Our limited pages could not contain the author's myriad meanderings, so we were forced to pick and choose selected bits of Barth's browsing. Following are excerpts from his essay penned especially for the occasion.

My congratulations to Washington College and to the staff of its Clifton M. Miller Library on the acquisition of this library's 200,000th volume. My thanks to whoever took it into their heads to invite me to help celebrate that occasion, and equally to you all for troubling yourselves to come hear what I have to say about it.

I confess to have been a little curious on that score myself; that's why I accepted the library's invitation. I am in rigorous accord with E. M. Forster's rhetorical question, "How can I tell what I think until I see what I say?" Indeed, I learned recently that that eloquent *obiter dictum* of Forster's has been updated and elaborated by contemporary neuroscience and language theory into what's known as the Pandemonium Model of Utterance — a model that theorizes multiple goals or intentions percolating through our consciousness, on the lookout, so to speak, for materials of expression, while at the same time those materials of expression (what the zoologist Richard Dawkins calls *memes*, or memory-units), likewise distributed through our brains, are reciprocally vigilant for opportunities of incorporation. What issues from this ongoing, low-level pandemonium inside our heads is what in fact we end up saying or writing — which then we may have to qualify immediately because we see that it's not quite what we meant; perhaps (as T. S. Eliot says) that "that is not it, at all." Contrariwise, we may recognize it to be *exactly* what we think and believe, now that we see how it has gotten itself said.

I don't know how it is with you, but the Pandemonium Model of Utterance certainly reminds me of how things go in *my* head, and likewise at my writing table. Not to wander irretrievably far

from the subject of our celebration, let's imagine individual consciousness as a sort of open library-stack (what we call our memory) whose "books" are itching to be borrowed. Our intentions are half-random, half-purposive browsers through that open stack, and our utterances are the more or less serendipitous match-up of books and borrowers: a match-up continuously "feedback-guided, error-corrected, and gain-adjusted" (in the words of the "neurophilosopher" Daniel C. Dennett), but never without an essential, inescapable element of browser-like serendipity, whatever the urgency and momentousness of the occasion. It is a match-up, moreover, in which not only are the "borrowers" more or less modified by the "books" (as is often the case with literal book-borrowers), but conversely, as any librarian can attest to be sometimes the literal case too — the book somewhat modified by its borrower.

The book that I myself most recently borrowed from the Miller Library, for example, is a study of the great 16th-century French comic writer François Rabelais by the great contemporary Russian critic Mikhail Bakhtin. It is an utterly humorless though quite brilliant examination of the millenia-old tradition of folk humor — the rough, democratic, "Rabelaisian" humor of marketplace and carnival — to which Rabelais gave magnificent literary expression in *Gargantua and Pantagruel*. Mikhail Bakhtin's book has substantially altered the way I think about François Rabelais — and evidently it impressed some earlier borrower of this copy as well, for he or she altered the book by ticking certain passages in the margins and even bracketing a few of them in the text, with the consequence that I found myself interacting not only with Bakhtin's interaction with Rabelais but also with some prior borrower's interaction with Bakhtin's interaction. Now, I happen to believe that anyone who marks up a library book deserves Islamic justice; all the same, it was a spooky and not uninteresting experience to notice early on that my fore-reader was ticking pretty consistently the very passages that I would have ticked, were I a ticker of passages in library books. Soon enough it became a kind of game between me and him/her: How come you didn't tick *this* passage, which I think memorable indeed? How come you bracketed this other one, which doesn't strike me as all that dazzling an *aperçu*? Maybe I'd better run it through my head again. . . .

In short, the reader had changed the book, as well as vice-versa, and I was reading that reader as well as reading the writer and, by extension, reading the writer that that writer was writing about. This complex transaction took place on the beach at Ocean City in the last week of August, by the way, and despite my best efforts to keep the Atlantic Ocean away from Mikhail Bakhtin and François Rabelais and my anonymous co-reader of Rabelais and His World (M.I.T. Press, 1968), a bit of salt water dripped on to the lower front cover. As that happens to be exactly where my left ring-finger rests when I read, I too have very slightly changed the book that very slightly changed me: There's a worn spot there that wasn't there when I borrowed the book — but I doubt that that alteration will significantly alter some future borrower of Bakhtin-on-Rabelais.

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The Pandemonium Model of Utterance, I was saying: that dating-service for Intentions and Materials of Expression. Puppies in a pet-shop, I suppose, might serve to illustrate the model about as well as books on a library shelf wagging their figurative tails, but shopping for a spaniel somehow doesn't cut it for me the way browsing among the bookstacks does. I hope to wander back to this browserish (if not Bowserish) aspect of human consciousness, human verbalization — I would go so far as to say human identity, even — after I've browsed through some other alcoves of my subject — which, right about at this point in the early drafting of these remarks, I realized was going to be *browsing*, and so decided to make browsing my method as well as my subject matter: This is what aestheticians call "significant form" and I call the Principle of Metaphoric Means. To browse means "to inspect in a leisurely and casual way" (so runs the verb's first definition in my dictionary, which etymologizes it back to Old French *broust*, meaning a twig or shoot). Also and therefore, it means "to feed on leaves and young shoots" (the second definition) — your mode of sustenance if you happen to be a deer, a goat, or a giraffe, for example, or an undecided but decidedly curious undergraduate. Of this, too, more presently: young sprouts browsing through the leaves of books. Libraries have this happy arboreal aspect: Not only do they themselves have branches and even twigs — e.g. the Rock Hall Branch and the Galena Twig of the Kent County Library — but the word *book* itself is an etymological offshoot of "beech" (as in beech trees, not ocean beaches), which is how their pages come to be called "leaves" and those who forage therethrough "browsers."

Browsing thus through the *B* s in my desk dictionary to check out the word *browse* reminded me that it was while browsing thirty years ago through the *B* s in the card catalogue and literature stacks of the Pattee Library of the Pennsylvania State University, where I happened to be teaching at the time, that I serendipitously encountered the writings of the great contemporary Argentine Jorge Luis Borges, whose fiction I had begun to hear interesting things about but hadn't read yet. A writer's muse from time to time whispers, "You'd better check this one out"; I always follow her advice, but not always promptly. I was there among the *B*s, I confess, partly to see whether my own books were included in the library's holdings; there were just three of them back then, and the experience of being a card-catalogued novelist was still rather heady. I don't remember whether I found myself there that day or not (what one hopes to find is one's books in the catalogue but not on the shelf); I do remember discovering Borges, a writer who came strongly to affect the way I thought about contemporary fiction, my own included, and about numerous other things as well. In one of his marvelous stories, for example, Borges describes *money* as "a collection of possible futures." That's how I feel about librar-

ies: a library is a collection of possible futures. My own future was significantly course-corrected, not for the first or the last time, by that fortuitous encounter in the Penn State stacks.

Señor Borges, I believe—whom I was subsequently fortunate enough to meet and speak with on several occasions before his death in 1986—shared my feeling about libraries (for a time he was a librarian himself, at the National Library in Buenos Aires). Another of his *ficciones*, called "The Library of Babel," involves an infinite library, whose innumerable volumes contain every possible combination of alphabetical characters and spaces. Such a library — the verbal equivalent of Lucretius's universe, comprising an infinite quantity of a finite variety of atoms in every possible combination — would therefore include the record not only of "actual" history, but likewise of all imaginable histories; it would contain not only the true prediction of the future, but, alas, the prediction of every possible and impossible future. I say *alas* because in the infinite Library of Babel we would have no way of distinguishing, before the fact, the accurate prediction from all the slightly or grossly inaccurate ones. The truth would be there, somewhere, but only extraordinary chance or special dispensation would lead us to it.

Metaphorically speaking, of course, that is the case with all libraries, despite the best efforts of the most knowledgeable and sophisticated staff and the highest-tech database search programs, for the reason that every general library represents and indeed more or less contains the accumulated mental resources of civilization. In the granary of the past are the seeds of the future, and no doubt the best way to assure a crop is to make the widest possible assortment of cultivars as accessible as possible to as many as possible within the community that the library serves.

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The image of Borges's infinite library (along with the phrase "widest possible assortment of cultivars," which I chose because it's not every day that a novelist gets to use the word *cultivars*) moves me to browse a bit around the number that occasions our present occasion: *200,000* books. Is that a lot of books? Quite a few books? "Right many," as we Eastern Shore folks sometimes say? Only a few? Too many? Just enough? Unanswerable questions, on the face of them, but some other book-numbers might help put ours in perspective. A browse through the *World Almanac* tells us that if we add another nine million volumes to our 200,000, we'll match the stacks of the New York Public Library — the research stacks only. Add another seventy million to that (we're talking 79,200,000 *items* this time, not necessarily volumes), and we approximate the holdings of the Library of Congress. Throughout most of recorded history, on the other hand, 200,000 volumes would have constituted a world-class library: A browse through the wonderful old eleventh edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* reminds or teaches us that the great library of Pergamum, for example, in Asia Minor, second only in its day to the fabled library of Alexandria, at the peak of its flourishing boasted some 200,000 "volumes" — scrolls, they would have been, of papyrus and of vellum parchment; scrolls to be *rolled* and un*rolled*, from the Latin verb for which action we get our word *volume* and the Swedes get their word *Volvo*. (*Parchment*, by the way, comes from Pergamum both historically and etymologically. I don't mind smarting off to you about these things, because many of them I just learned myself, browsing around for this talk.) Plutarch tells us that when Mark Antony's Roman legions captured the city of Pergamum in Fortysomething B.C., Antony made a gift of those 200,000 scrolls to his friend Cleopatra to add to the holdings of that already-legendary library of hers in Alexandria, part of which had been burned by Caesar's fleet a couple of years earlier. Books do make nice love gifts.

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Who can say what half-random combination of voices from here, there, and anywhere might happen to inspire a new singer? I know of one instance where a 13th-century Persian fabulator (Scheherazade) interbred with, among others, a 19th-century Brazilian romantic formalist (Joaquim Machado de Assis) and an early 20th-century Irish modernist (James Joyce) to produce a contemporary American postmodernist. Most of that wild cross-pollenation took place in the classics stacks of the old Gilman Hall Library at Johns Hopkins, where I used to work as a book-filer to help defray my undergraduate tuition, and where I managed to read quite a lot of what I was supposed to be returning from cart to shelf. It's what I call my *à la carte* education. Library stacks, in their quiet way, can be really swinging places; virtual orgies of cross-cultural insemination go on there, at all hours. If Jesse Helms and Pat Robertson get wind of it, the American Library Association is in for trouble.

Speaking of which (apprentice writers and book-numbers, I mean, not virtual orgies), Gustave Flaubert famously remarked that it is enough for a writer to have read five or six books well. He neglected to tell us which five or six, however, and so I caution apprentice writers that only the massively well read, like Flaubert, are entitled to make such dismissive remarks, just as only Nobel-prizewinners are entitled to sniff at the Nobel prize. I've heard it said, by the way, that a certain distinguished theoretical physicist, toward the close of his career, once lamented to an interviewer that by his own standards he had never had a really great idea in his professional lifetime. The surprised interviewer asked, "Do you mean a Nobel-prizewinning idea?" "No no no," said the physicist: "I mean a *really* great idea." The disparagement would be more pungent coming from a Nobel laureate — except that the anecdote happens to be not tellable that way.

How many books are enough? When one of my graduate students asked Donald Barthelme, who was visiting our seminar, what she might do to become a better writer, Barthelme suggested that she might begin by reading all of philosophy, from the pre-Socratics up to last semester. The young woman objected that I had already urged her and her comrades to read all of literature, from the Egyptian Middle Kingdom up to last semester, in order to get some sense of the turf. "That, too," Barthelme said. "You're probably wasting time on things like eating and sleeping. Cease that, and go read everything." Thomas Wolfe, if I remember correctly, attempted to do just that, in his New York years, and was rendered desperate by the fact that the Serious Lit

stacks alone of the New York Public grew at a rate enormously faster than even a speed reader could hope to approach.

At the opposite pole (to wind up this exercise in number-browsing) we have a reading-list even shorter than Flaubert's unspecified "*cinq ou six livres*": that of those Islamic fundamentalists who maintain that only *one* book is necessary, the holy Koran, inasmuch as all the others either agree with it, in which case they're redundancies, or else disagree with it, in which case they're heresies. Christian fundamentalism has sometimes inclined that way, too, substituting "the Book" for the Koran — although *Bible*, strictly speaking, comes from the Greek plural *biblia*, meaning "books": the books of the Book, to be sure, not just any old plurality of books. . . .

So: Given these numerical extremes — the single-volume library of fundamentalist Islam on the one hand, Borges's infinite Library of Babel on the other — how big should a library be? Specifically, the general library of a good small liberal arts college like this one? The only acceptable answer is "as big as possible," for while the quality of a collection is no doubt more important than its size, there's much to be said for mere muchness, for raw magnitude. George Boas, the late aesthetician and historian of ideas at Johns Hopkins (and my mentor, although he didn't know it), used to fret about "great books" curricula because they tend to leave out the books that disagree with the Great Books. The reading of non-great books, Boas believed, even of downright bad books — even of inexcusably, unredeemedly wicked books — is important to a truly liberal education: liberal as in "liberating," as in *Veritas vos liberabit*, "The truth shall make you free," which happens to be the motto both of my alma mater and of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, neither of which institutions intends the proposition in quite the same spirit that Jesus intended it in the gospel of St. John, Chapter 8, Verse 32. The *liber* of "liberal" and "liberate," I remark in passing, is an entirely different root from the *liber* of "library," but the two roots indisputably nourish the same tree.

Let's hear it, then, for raw magnitude: I can testify that my undergraduate book-filing days in the orderly labyrinth of Greek and Roman classics and of William Foxwell Albright's Oriental Seminary (which back then comprised Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Hebrew, Egyptian, and various other literatures) indelibly impressed me with the sheer size and diversity of the *already said*, and made me a cultural pluralist for life — without, mirabile dictu, intimidating me into respectful silence. If you happen to be a refugee from the Dorchester County tidemarshes (another sort of labyrinth), as I was and remain, and particularly if you aspire to keep one foot at least ankle deep back in your native bog while the other foot traipses through the wider world, it's well to have such an off-the-cart smorgasbord under your belt, for ballast.

*I find a good dictionary or almanac or encyclopedia as difficult to extricate myself from as a good hardware or marine supply store; from any of them I'm likely to emerge with something very different from what I went in for.*

As big as possible, then, the absolute minimum requirement being that your library be big enough for a habitual browser to get lost in.

How big is that? We seem to be back where we started: How many books does it take to lose your average seasoned, half-purposive browser? Sometimes, as has been demonstrated, just one will do the trick. I find a good dictionary or almanac or encyclopedia as difficult to extricate myself from as a good hardware or marine supply store; from any of them I'm likely to emerge with something very different from what I went in for. I even resist interrupting a sentence in progress to check out one of its items in such seductive reference works, lest I mislay the thread that led me into the labyrinth and find myself lost in the funhouse of the *Britannica* or the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

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A better answer to the question "How big need a library be for one to get happily and perhaps even profitably lost in it?" would be "Big enough to constitute a network of interconnections sufficiently rich to serve as a model of the mentally apprehensible world." That formulation — in particular the term *network* — leads or at least invites me to the all-but-final twigs of this little browse through the subject of browsing.

I've been speaking of *books*, mainly, as one still tends to do when speaking of libraries. Our occasion, after all, is this library's acquisition of its 200,000th book; there was probably a similar hurrah at Pergamum in Fortysomething B.C. when the 200,000th scroll joined their collection, just before Mark Antony closed in as Cleopatra's field-agent for acquisitions. But every frequenter of libraries knows that the image of the library as a book-museum, or even as a storehouse of the printed word, is a severely limited image indeed, not only because audiovisual materials are so important a part of any modern library's resources — cassettes, slides, microfilms, laser disks, and the like — but also because more and more of the library's available supply of "written" language is "accessed" these days not directly off the shelf and the page but via modems and video display terminals. For a great many research purposes, the printed book — that handy-dandy object that we cuddle up with on a beach or airplane or recliner chair and try not to deface with suntan lotions and marginalia unless it's our personal copy — the printed book is often less useful than the computerized database, the search program, and the electronic network: technologies that are obliging us to rethink our familiar book-oriented notions of "text," "author," "reader," "copyright," and the like. In the scientific community especially, but in the humanities and other areas as well, research findings are exchanged, "papers" are "written" and peer-reviewed and revised and enlarged or subsumed without there necessarily being any officially "published," canonical text at all. There are electronic journals (by which term we do not mean magazines about electronics); there are even "on-line" literary periodicals, not to mention all sorts of interlinkages among specialized databases. Ever more frequently, our

transactions with the "already said" — and with colleagues, business associates, even geographically distant family members or fellow enthusiasts of some particular pursuit — take place not in library stacks of printed books or in any other literal space with literal texts, but in the virtual or hyper-spaces of computer networks, with virtual rather than literal, hard-copy "finished" texts. Even, we are beginning to see, with hypertexts.

What is hyperspace? What are hypertexts? . . . For any of you unfamiliar with these phenomena, it is fortunately too late in this talk — too late in life, I suspect, for some of us print-loving troglodytes perfectly comfortable with the mature but threatened technologies and institutions of books, publishers, authors, readers, and copyright laws — too late for me to do more than browse the very edges of the subject.

Most of us have experienced to some extent the "virtual reality" or "virtual worlds" of computer modelings and simulations, which seem to be used these days in virtually every field of human enterprise from weather forecasting to market research. And whether we employ the term or not, most of us are familiar with the "virtual texts" — unprinted, unfinalized, ever open to emendations small or large — that float about in our word processors or in the hyperspace between our computers and those of our editors, colleagues, accomplices, fellow accessees to some electronic network or other. Now imagine a "text" (the word is already in quotes, the signal or symptom of virtuality) every word of which— at least many a key word of which — is a window or point of entry to a network of associated "texts" (or graphics, music, statistics, spoken language, whatever a computer can reproduce), these several networks themselves interconnected and infinitely modifiable — or virtually infinitely so — by "readers" who can enter the text at any point, trace any of a zillion paths through its associated micro- and macro-networks, add or subtract material and modify the linkages as they please, and then exit at any point, in the process having been virtual co-authors or co-editors as well as "readers" of their virtual text. That's hypertext.

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Hypertext is, I suppose, the ultimate form of browsing. In our virtual way, we library-browsers have been virtually hypertexting all along without realizing it, the way Molière's Monsieur Jourdain comes to realize that he's been speaking prose all his life without knowing it. My mental interaction on the beach at Ocean City with that previous borrower's shamelessly marginated interaction with Mikhail Bakhtin's extended interaction with all previous commentators' critical interactions with the text of François Rabelais' literary interaction with the world of 16th-century France can be thought of as a somewhat awkward and limited linear analogue to hypertextual browsing, which is essentially nonlinear. . .

But true browsing, Q.E.D., is always only partly random. Those "innocent young shoots" that the browser browses upon aren't really free-standing; they're multiply interconnected by a complex network of underground rhizomes, like spartina canes in a marsh or wiregrass in your garden or the axons and dendrites of the multi-billion neurons of our brains: a network unapparent and scarcely apprehensible until we begin to browse along one of its all-but-infinite possible pathways, sighing, perhaps, at the number of alternative routes that we don't have time to explore. I spoke earlier of the "arboreal" aspect of libraries — their branches and twigs, and the etymology of words like *book* — and now I've mentioned rhizomes. It happens that the terms *arborescent* and *rhizomatic* are fashionable just now in post-structuralist literary theory, employed to describe two very different kinds of organizing structures. Libraries are "arborescent" not only in their aforenoted woodsy associations but in their hierarchical classification of verbal subject-matter into mainstem categories with multiply branching subcategories and sub-subcategories (the Dewey decimal system of book-classification is an elaborate instance of arborescent structure). But browsing, like hypertext, is essentially "rhizomatic," as is the human brain and the world apprehended by it. Whatever its official place in some hierarchical system, every object of contemplation, every mental datum and sensory image, like every word in a language, is also a node in a rhizomatic network that may lead to illuminating, beautiful, useful, or at least unexpected interconnections.

Now that I've seen what I've said on the subject of browsing, I believe I know what I think: that I want to end this talk back in a library with the great Jorge Luis Borges, whose texts may not be hyper but are very often super. One of my favorites among them is set in what used to be called Czechoslovakia in 1938 and involves a not especially successful writer named Jaromir Hladík, who is condemned to death by the Nazis for the crime of being Jewish. On his last night on earth, Hladík prays for time to complete an unfinished work in progress, and toward dawn he has a crucial dream:

> . . . he dreamt he had hidden himself in one of the naves of the Clementine Library. A librarian wearing dark glasses asked him: What are you looking for? Hladík answered: "God." The Librarian told him: "God is in one of the letters on one of the pages of one of the 400,000 volumes of the Clementine. My fathers and the fathers of my fathers have sought after that letter. I've gone blind looking for it." He removed his glasses [Borges himself was blind], and Hladík saw that his eyes were dead. A reader came in to return an atlas. "This atlas is useless," he said, and handed it to Hladík, who opened it at random. As if through a haze, he saw a map of India. With a sudden rush of assurance, he touched one of the tiniest letters. An ubiquitous voice said: "The time for your work has been granted."

The story in which this dream occurs is called in English "The Secret Miracle." It has a magnificent ending, which I won't give away. I exhort those of you who don't know it to look it up, here in your splendid 200,000-volume library (already half the size of the fabled Clementine). Do not let the circulation staff look it up or fetch it for you; go into the stacks yourself, with only the most general directions, and do not rush to the correct address. Stroll the neighborhood; handle the merchandise; see what catches your eye. You are not likely to find God while browsing through the stacks of the Clifton M. Miller Library — though who knows? What you might just possibly find, however, is yourself.

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# *Harry Truman's Hero: Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, Class of '99*

*by P. J. Wingate '33*

Colleges and universities like to have a President of the United States visit the campus and make a speech. It is good for public relations because such events create interest and excitement among the students, alumni, friends of the institution, and even the general public. In return the college or university usually awards the President an honorary degree, most often an LL.D.

Consequently, most Presidents of the United States receive more offers of honorary degrees than they have time to accept. President Harry Truman wrote in his appointment book of May 18, 1945, just thirty-six days after he took office following the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, that the Rev. Paul McNally, vice president of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., had visited the White House to invite him to attend graduation at Georgetown and receive an honorary degree.

"I told him," Mr. Truman wrote, "I could not come to their graduation exercises and have an honorary degree given me. I told him I am not very strong for honorary degrees if you have not earned them. I have only one and that was conferred on me by a little college in Iowa, when I went out to make an address to the graduating class. Did not know they were going to confer a degree on me."

But despite his stated opposition to honorary degrees President Truman did accept one that year from George Washington University, where his daughter, Margaret, was a student. And a year later on June 1, 1946, he came to Washington College to make a speech and receive an honorary doctor of laws degree, after which he said, "The honor which is given to me today by this venerable institution is one that I shall treasure all the rest of my life."

I never learned until many years later, when *Off the Record: the Private Papers of Harry S. Truman* was published, that Mr. Truman had turned away more than a hundred offers of honorary degrees during his first month or so in office, so I was only mildly surprised when he came to Chestertown to receive an honorary degree from Washington College. After all, his predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, had visited the College the same year I graduated, to make a speech and receive an honorary degree. So why not Mr. Truman, I thought.

Nevertheless, between 1933 and 1946 I had slowly become aware that visits to a campus by a sitting President were unusual events, much sought after by colleges and universities. No other school in Maryland had been so honored during this period. However, it was a question from a young professor at Drexel University in Philadelphia shortly after Truman's proposed visit to Chestertown was announced in the Philadelphia newspaper, which brought home to me just how unusual such events really were.

"How is it?" the young professor asked me, "that a college as small as Washington College, in a little town the size of Chestertown, gets both Roosevelt and Truman to come for an

*"I also knew that Goldsborough and Truman belonged to the same poker club before Alan became a judge. So I decided to ask him if he would personally deliver our invitation to President Truman. He agreed and got an on-the-spot acceptance."*

*Hon. T. Alan Goldsborough '99, left, Dr. James M. H. Rowland, center, and Robert L. Swain, right, received honorary degrees at Commencement in 1935.*

honorary degree while Drexel, which is five or ten times as large, in a big city, can't even persuade the Governor of Pennsylvania to visit our campus, so we have to settle for the mayor of Philadelphia?"

I gave him a half-joking answer about quality, not size, being the obvious explanation, but then added that perhaps the age of Washington College and the fact that George Washington had personally granted it the use of his name may also have been factors.

I suspected, even then, that there may have been more to it than both of my explanations, but I never fully understood just why Roosevelt and Truman had come to Washington College until three years later, in 1949, when I attended an alumni breakfast in Hodson Hall, presided over by Federal Court Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, class of '99, and heard him talk about the rivalry which he said existed, during his college years, between himself and Col. Hiram Staunton Brown, then chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors of the College.

The Judge was in a high good humor and said he had always hated "Staunton Brown," as he called him, partly because Brown had won all the offices which Goldsborough had sought in college, but mostly because he always brought the prettiest girls in Chestertown to the college teas and dances.

I was seated right beside Col. Brown during this mock denunciation and he smiled broadly during the part about the prettiest girls in Chestertown. During the course of the breakfast, when there was no speaker at the microphone, I told Col. Brown that I had heard that Judge Goldsborough had played a role in arranging President Truman's visit three years earlier.

"You are right, " he told me, "but he did a lot more than play a role. He arranged the whole thing just the way I did in 1933 when President Roosevelt came here.

"I had known Franklin Roosevelt in New York for many years when he decided to run for Governor. I supported him with some money then and when he ran for President in 1932 I supported him again. This time my support was more important, because I was then president of the RKO movie and theater business and I saw to it that all our movie houses gave him good publicity in the news reels which were so important then. So I knew President Roosevelt owed me one after he got elected and I expected him to accept our offer of an honorary degree when I made it, and, of course, he did."

Col. Brown went on to say that he also knew President Truman personally, but nowhere near as well as he knew Roosevelt, and Truman did not owe him anything.

"However," he continued,"I knew that Alan Goldsborough, who had been made a Federal judge by Roosevelt, knew him very well since Alan had been in the House of Representatives for ten years or so when Truman was elected to the Senate and the two of them had worked together closely in passing a lot of Roosevelt's legislation programs. I also knew that Goldsborough and Truman belonged to the same poker club before Alan became a judge. So I decided to ask him if he would personally deliver our invitation to President Truman. He agreed and got an on-the-spot acceptance."

"Except for truly unusual circumstances, " Col. Brown continued, " a President can find time for anything he really wants to do, and when Alan went in to see him in November 1945, as I recall it, he said Truman pulled out his appointment calendar for 1946 and wrote Washington College, Chestertown, Md. in it for June 1. That did it, and any future moves had to find their place around a commitment already made by the Boss himself."

Col. Brown stopped talking at that point for a moment and seemed lost in thought for awhile. Then he said: "It was a big favor for his old friend but the Judge paid him back a hundred times over when he decided the John L. Lewis case the way Truman wanted it decided. That decision ended the coal strike which was threatening to tie up the whole country and if it had not ended I doubt Truman would have been elected President when he ran on his own in 1948."

John L. Lewis and his coal miners were still very much in the news in 1949 so Col. Brown did not have to explain what he was talking about. Dozens of political commentators had pontificated to the effect that President Truman had shown his mettle as a forceful executive, and several of them had declared he never would have defeated Dewey if the strike had dragged on the way Lewis clearly intended it to.

*Above, Col. Brown (far right) hosted the Roosevelts and Maryland Governor Ritchie during their visit to campus in 1933. Right, President Mead with President Truman at Commencement in 1946.*

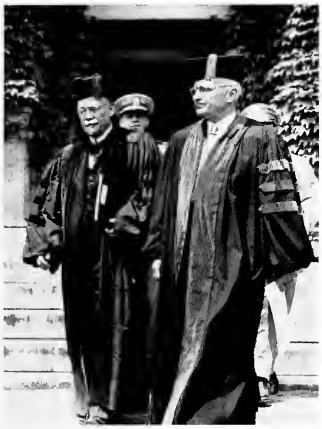
"Do you suppose, " I asked Col. Brown, "that the close personal friendship between Truman and Goldsborough had a bearing on the decision, or on the fact that the Attorney General picked Judge Goldsborough's court to sue Lewis?"

Col. Brown laughed: "Don't get ahead of me, young fellow, " he said. "I wouldn't dare make such a suggestion about a President of the United States and a Federal Judge. My guess is that the case was decided strictly on its merit. I've never asked Judge Goldsborough about it and I don't think you should either."

And I never did. But the facts about the battles between John L. Lewis and President Truman were reported so often that they fascinated me for years.

Lewis had a strong, bulldog looking face, highlighted by a set of bushy black eyebrows which newspaper cartoonists loved to draw. Sometimes they showed him as merely two big black eyebrows above a firmly set jaw. Everyone knew who it was. He became so successful that when the UMW joined with the AFL and CIO to form one great labor union Lewis clearly was the dominant labor leader in the nation, and politicians from city council members to President of the United States felt compelled to seek his approval.

All the success apparently went to



his head, at least to some extent, and he quarrelled with both friends and foes.

So it did not surprise anyone when Lewis quarrelled with the new President almost as soon as Truman had moved into the White House. It was a part of Lewis' strategy to call a strike of the nation's coal miners as soon as the war ended and the old contract with the mine owners expired.

There was one problem, however. The complex labor laws then in existence required both unions and management to enter into a long period of negotiation after a labor contract expired before a strike could be called. But Lewis had, he thought, a solution to this problem. When the contract expired he would not announce any strike; his miners would simply decide not to work without a contract. Then within a few weeks or months the nation's industry would grind to a halt and Lewis and the UMW would obtain whatever they demanded.

However, John L. Lewis, despite his ability to quote Shakespeare at the dropping of a hat or the lifting of an eyebrow, miscalculated the power and fighting spirit of his opponent this time. Truman had his Attorney General file suit in Judge T. Alan Goldsborough's Federal Court charging Lewis and his Union with calling an illegal strike.

Lewis and his attorneys argued that no strike had been called; the miners had just decided that with no contract they would not work. But Judge Goldsborough ruled otherwise and fined the Union $3.5 million, and Lewis $10,000 personally, for contempt of court, with more to follow if the strike continued. This was a lot of money back in the days when the President of the United States was paid only $50,000 per year, and it threatened to ruin both Lewis and his Union. So the miners went back to work and Truman appeared to be a forceful and effective Chief Executive. It was the huge fine, which was later rescinded, that carried the day but the words of Judge Goldsborough were printed in every major newspaper in the nation. He said that a strike could be called without any formal proclamation. "A nod, a beck, a wink or a lifted eyebrow" was all that was necessary, he said, to call a strike.

So Harry Truman went on to win his big upset over Dewey in 1948, but he never forgave Lewis for the failed attempt to humiliate him in 1946. In response to a joking letter from Neal D. Bishop in 1949 suggesting that Lewis be appointed Ambassador to Russia, he replied that "I wouldn't appoint John L. Lewis dogcatcher."

On the day Judge Goldsborough spoke so wittily at the alumni breakfast in Hodson Hall, Ernest Howard, a longtime member of the Board of Visitors and Governors, told me the Judge was also scheduled to receive an honorary degree of his own.

"He has already received one honorary degree from the College," Mr. Howard said, "and his new one will set a record because I have been making a study of honorary degrees given by Washington College and no one has ever received two before."

I was intrigued by this information from Mr. Howard, who later wrote a book on the subject. So after the breakfast was over I went up to Judge Goldsborough and asked him if he knew his second honorary degree from his *alma mater* would be a record. He said he did not and added, "But I don't suppose anyone takes honorary degrees too seriously."

That remark caused me to ask if he had heard H.L. Mencken's statement on honorary degrees. Again he said he did not know about it, but then added: "I'll bet it was a doozy." So I told him Mencken had received many offers of honorary degrees, had declined them all and finally issued a statement which said: "No decent man would accept a degree he hadn't earned. Honorary degrees are for corporation presidents, bishops, real estate agents, Presidents of the United States, and other such riffraff."

Judge Goldsborough threw back his head and roared with laughter. "That's Mencken for you," he exclaimed. "Mencken also said that there is very little law anywhere on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and none south of the Choptank River, which is where I grew up." Then he paused before saying: "Well, I never claimed to be a decent man anyway."

But Harry Truman remained a thoroughly decent man all his life, even though he slowly became accustomed to accepting degrees he had not earned. Among them was one from the University of Missouri in his home state and another from Oxford University in England. According to Margaret Truman in a book about her mother, Mrs. Truman was irked by the degree from Missouri because "the university had only taken six years to get around to honoring Missouri's first President."

The honorary degree from Oxford was remarkable because it had to be offered three times — in 1953, 1954, and 1955 — before Truman went to England to accept it. He was no longer President in 1953 but he was so busy writing his memoirs that he asked for a year's postponement. Then he missed again because of a gall bladder operation. But the third invitation in 1955 led to the Oxford degree in June 1956.

Oxford might have got its man more promptly if it had worked through Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, but this was not possible because the Judge died in 1951.

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*P.J. Wingate '33 is the author of* Before the Bridge *and numerous other books and articles. He is a former chairman and vice-chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College.*

# *The Lady Vanished: My Search for Polyna Stoska*

*by Garry E. Clarke*

It all began in a rather offhand way. One afternoon last fall, Maggie Duncan arrived at my office in the music department. She had some old issues of *Opera News* in her car, down in the Fine Arts Center parking lot. Would the department be able to use them? If not, we could discard them. The magazines were from the late 1940s, and I knew that we didn't have issues from that time period. When Richard Brown retired from the college, he gave the department his collection of *Opera News* dating from around 1960 to the mid-1980s. Helen Gibson has regularly augmented our collection with more recent issues. *Opera News* has been helpful to students seeking information for term papers in numerous opera classes. The Miller Library has the periodical, too, but in the music department one can take the issues back to the dorm, use them, and then return them. Maggie's contribution was deposited in my office, and I was delighted.

I have always been interested in the Metropolitan Opera, and in fact my wife, Melissa, and I once indulged in a subscription there. The Met is the organization ultimately responsible for *Opera News*. The magazine helps listeners prepare for the weekly radio broadcasts from the Met. These broadcasts have educated several generations of Americans. I remember many years ago hearing Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* while sitting in my grandmother's living room on her farm in Illinois. This was an opera that was almost new, and for a boy many miles from the nearest opera house, the broadcast was a revelation. The Saturday afternoon performances were an invaluable part of my musical education. Later I attended real, live, operas at the "old" Met on Broadway and 39th Street. Then, after the move to Lincoln Center, I went to countless performances at the "new" house.

I love opera. In fact, many years ago I wrote an opera, *Westchester Limited*, and some members of the Washington College community from the early 1970s may remember performing it. I enjoy teaching the opera course every other year and have been encouraged not only by enthusiastic students but by Betty Casey, who is president of the board of the Washington Opera, a member of the Washington College class of 1947, and a member of our Board of Visitors and Governors. Thanks to this generous member of the Washington College community, in recent years I have been able to take my students to the opera at the Kennedy Center. Opera, in fact, has been a part of my life at Washington College since I first came here. In 1970 I taught the opera course for the first time. The year before, when the college chorus toured Europe, we attended a perfor-

PHOTO: METROPOLITAN OPERA ARCHIVES

*Polyna Stoska at the height of her career. Born and educated in America, she performed in Germany before singing on Broadway and at the Metropolitan Opera.*

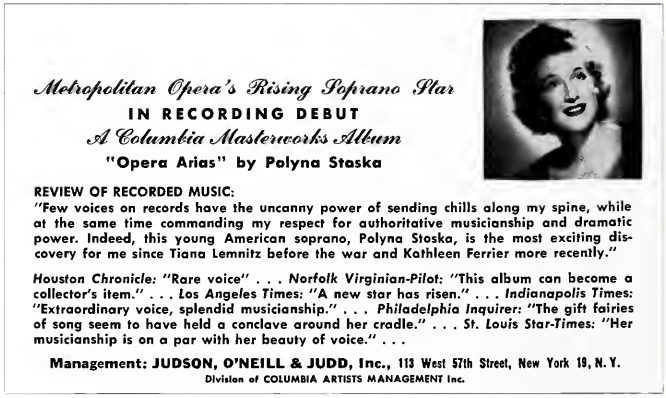
mance of *Götterdammerung* in Vienna. It was the von Karajan production with Birget Nilsson. Some of the students decided to have dinner during the second act, returning only for the opera's conclusion. Because it was Wagner, they had time for the dinner. I suppose it was my fault for telling them that Wagner was, among other things, *long*! There have been many opera trips with students over the years, to the Metropolitan and the New York City Opera, to the Philadelphia Academy, to Opera Delaware in Wilmington as well as to the Washington Opera. One of my opera students, Marge Betly '85, was an editor at *Opera News* before becoming managing director of the New Music-Theater Ensemble in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Others, including April Lindevald '77, and John Holland '76, have gone from studying opera in Chestertown to performing it in New York and Chicago.

I like to think that I know opera singers, for I have always been associated with them. Both my mother and my father were singers and met at a singing contest where they won the first and second prizes. While I was in high school, on a number of occasions my mother, father, and brother performed Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona*. I was the accompanist. We talked about singers at home, and my parents taught voice students. I knew singers. Or so I thought.

One afternoon I started browsing through Maggie Duncan's issues of *Opera News*. It was an issue from late 1947 for the broadcast of a performance of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* that caught my eye. I saw a name and a face that I did not know. The name was Polyna Stoska. She was singing Eva, the opera's heroine. I had not heard of Polyna Stoska and was surprised, since I thought I knew the names of singers performing major roles at the Met. More of Maggie's issues suggested that Polyna Stoska — from Worcester, Massachusetts, I noted — did not sing just *Die Meistersinger*. Although there was much Wagner, including three important roles in the *Ring* cycle, Stoska had made her debut at the Met as a Mozartean, in November 1947, singing Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*. Could Stoska sing both Wagner and Mozart effectively, I wondered? I went to Miller Library, to the files of *The New York Times*. The reviews were, to put it mildly, encouraging. Some of them were wildly enthusiastic. As I continued to peruse *Opera News*, I discovered that Polyna Stoska seemed to be singing almost everything from the major female role in Benjamin Britten's then very new *Peter Grimes* to Mussorgsky's *Khovanchina*, in those days — and still — an almost completely unknown Russian work. Who was this woman, who, in her photographs, was tall and attractive, and from her reviews appeared to be an important voice, somehow forgotten? Or, had I just not known about her?

I asked ten musicians, all of them interested in the human voice and in singers, what they knew of Polyna Stoska. None of them had heard of her. Fascinated, I decided to write to an important vocal authority, George Jellinek, who is legendary for his program on WQXR, New York, "The Vocal Scene." But though he knew of Stoska, he had no idea what had happened to her. I wrote to *Opera News*. There was no news there, either, but a couple of suggestions concerning individuals to contact, including Phyllis Curtin, the opera singer, and Thea Dispeker, a one-time representative of Stoska. Neither of them could shed any light, but Dispeker suggested that I write to Maurice Abravanel, the retired conductor of the Utah Symphony. And I had decided that Polyna Stoska's hometown, Worcester, Massachusetts, might be a source of enlightenment. I wrote to the Worcester Historical Society and to newspapers and magazines in the Worcester area. I also wrote to CBS records (which I later found to be now a part of Sony Music Entertainment). At this point it was early February, and I was on leave from Washington College with quite a number of "official" sabbatical projects to accomplish. Yet my interest kept being drawn to Polyna Stoska. Who was this lady, where was she, and why, to paraphrase the title of an old Alfred Hitchcock movie, had she vanished?

I had read the enthusiastic reviews, but I had not heard her sing. Where better to find her recordings (for by now I knew that there were some) than at the Library of Congress? "Who is Polyna Stoska?" asked the librarian when I inquired about Stoska recordings. A search produced some discs. I listened. The voice was magnificent — a gorgeous, rich, beautiful soprano, effortlessly produced. There was no forcing, no wobble, no harshness. I heard Polyna Stoska sing Mozart, Weber, Wagner, Puccini, Weill, Britten, and a few other composers. I was entranced. Obviously Stoska had not been just an opera singer, for she had had an important role in the first production of Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* on Broadway. That performance — the original Broadway cast album — is still available on compact disc. I bought it and took it home. Melissa listened to this "mystery singer" and thought that it was either Jessye Norman or Leontyne Price. I asked




*(Above) An announcement of a recital album by Stoska, issued on Columbia Masterworks in the spring of 1948. (Right) Stoska as Ellen Orford in Britten's* Peter Grimes. *She sang the role nine times with the Metropolitan Opera.*

her why. "The incredible richness and beauty of the sound," said Melissa. "Who is it?" she asked. Ann Mathews, Washington College's singing instructor, thought the voice resembled that of Eleanor Steber, quickly adding "in her best days." Ann didn't know of Polyna Stoska either. But the CD of Kurt Weill impressed all my friends who heard it. Alas, they had not listened to the Mozart and Wagner, now long out of print, that had thrilled me at the Library of Congress.

As I continued my sabbatical projects, I added this new one, in the form of several questions: Who was Polyna Stoska? What, really was her achievement? Why had few people heard of her? Where was she now? Pieces of a biography began to fit together: an early life in Worcester followed by work at The Juilliard School mostly in New York; a career in Germany, in Berlin, with a debut in 1938; a return to the United States after the outbreak of hostilities; many miles traveled to entertain American GIs around the world during World War II; a series of memorable performances at the New York City Opera; Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* on Broadway; a debut at the Metropolitan Opera, followed by more than forty performances with the company. There followed, after 1950, a happy marriage to Vienna-born Felix Ehren and subsequently less and less of a public career. There were more opera performances at important houses in Europe, and there was teaching at Indiana University and at Boston University. Then, after 1959, nothing.

PHOTO: METROPOLITAN OPERA ARCHIVES

My inquiries continued. The Worcester *Telegraph and Gazette* was helpful, but the newspaper's archives contained nothing after 1959. Ruth Shoge ran a computer search at Miller Library. It, too, stopped at 1959. Finally, in March, I was reduced to calling the telephone information operator for Worcester. I was given two numbers. The first relative I called, a cousin, was not anxious to talk with a stranger. The other relatives, very distant, thought that Polyna Stoska had moved to Florida and had died. I wrote a letter to the reluctant cousin then called her again, but the response was strange and not informative. Knowing that Polyna had married Felix Ehren, I tried that surname, this time in the Boston area, the last known place where Polyna Stoska had taught. A woman named Ehren answered the telephone, and although she did not know Felix, after my comments she said, "Gee, he's not a relative, but I wish he were. He sounds interesting!" Things seemed at a dead end, almost literally.

Yet, something told me that I could not stop. It was probably the sounds, stored in my head, of Polyna Stoska's performance of Donna Elvira in the Metropolitan radio broadcast of December, 1947. Elvira is a difficult role. I could not remember having heard it sung more effectively. Further, it was obvious that Polyna Stoska could act, not just sing. She had won the Donaldson Award as best supporting actress on Broadway for her performances in *Street Scene*. Maria Callas, a woman with numerous vocal problems but a fine actress, was famous, a legend. Polyna Stoska, a woman with no discernable vocal problems, also a fine actress, was not remembered. Why was she not remembered?

I wrote letter after letter: to the American Guild of Musical Artists, to *The New York Times*, to the School of Music at Indiana University, to Boston University, to Juilliard. I continued to check newspapers and periodicals. A telephone inquiry to the Worcester Music Festival offices produced no information concerning Stoska other than the fact that the person taking the call had heard Stoska sing in the late 1940s. "She was wonderful!" the woman exclaimed. But nobody in Worcester had heard of Polyna Stoska in many years, and the city's head music critic, who might have known something about her whereabouts, had died several years ago. How could such a talented lady vanish, almost without a trace? I talked with Nate Smith, who, as an historian, has had the experience of tracking down missing persons. He told me that I had done the right things so far. He also told me to be patient.

Finally, an article surfaced suggesting that Polyna Stoska had moved to

Europe some years ago. Then one afternoon I noted in a 1949 magazine that Polyna Stoska had been maid of honor at her sister's wedding. The sister had married a man from Long Island. I went to the telephone and dialed Long Island information. Did they have the name from a 43-year-old news release? They did! I called the number.

"No, you don't want me," said the cheerful woman on the other end of the line. "But I know who you do want: Polyna's sister, who lives in Queens."

"You know Polyna Stoska's sister?" I asked, incredulously.

"Oh, yes, my husband and I were over there for dinner last night."

When I called the sister, she was friendly and apologized for not answering my letter. I had not written to her. Then I learned that the letter I had sent to the cousin in Worcester had been forwarded to Polyna Stoska's sister in Queens. "The cousin is more than 100 years old," Stoska's sister said, "and it would have been difficult for her to talk with you." I was told that the person I really needed to consult was Stoska's other sister. "She is a nun, living in a convent not too far from you — just outside of Philadelphia."

I asked the question that had been on my mind since my discussion with the distant relatives several weeks before. "Is Polyna Stoska alive?"

"Yes she is, alive and well, and living with her husband in Europe, in Monaco." This was a revelation, and I soon made the acquaintance of Stoska's other sister who provided me with the singer's address and telephone number. A day spent at the convent produced numerous bits of information and suggestions for future research. There were many photographs, Polyna's score of an aria from *Tannhäuser*, and a marvelous tape of *The Telephone Hour*, a radio program. Stoska sang nine times on the show, and this particular performance included "Pace, Pace" from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* and Stephen Foster's "Beautiful Dreamer." The singing was wonderful.

A letter to Polyna Stoska resulted in more pieces of the puzzle being put into place. She responded, writing to me in London where I was involved with other sabbatical projects. Her letter was gracious, and it contained a great amount of vital information and the promise to help me in my research. I was excited. I felt like a detective who had, finally, cracked the case.

Simultaneously, other matters began to be resolved. The librarian at the archives of Juilliard, becoming interested in my query, found almost 90 pages of information concerning Polyna Stoska. The Lithuanian Catholic Press in Chicago answered a letter, as did the archives of the Metropolitan Opera. I learned that many of Stoska's scores and recordings had been given to The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance. The British Museum provided some interesting information on the woman and her career. A revival of *Street Scene* in London in 1989, I discovered, had brought a new interest in Stoska, not just because of her superb performance of the work in 1947, but because of her association with Kurt Weill. Here was a singer who knew first-hand about *Street Scene* and the composer who had written the score.

PHOTO: METROPOLITAN OPERA ARCHIVES

*Stoska as Donna Elvira in Mozart's* Don Giovanni, *the role of her Metropolitan Opera debut on November 7, 1947.*

In Alfred Hitchcock's movie, the lady vanished but finally reappeared, having been there all the time. Polyna Stoska was there, too, but finding her was a struggle. What does my discovery of the woman mean? Perhaps an article? A book? At this point it is not clear, and only as I continue to study Stoska and her career will the purpose of my inquiry really take focus. Stoska flourished in an important moment in our musical history, and her life seems fascinating to me.

A friend, a professor at another institution, was not enthusiastic, questioning why such a career would be of interest or importance. "You've become too close to the woman to think objectively," he noted. I wonder. Polyna Stoska was, from what I have heard, a great singer. She could sing Wagner with majesty, Mozart with beauty, and Stephen Foster with simple elegance. These composers, I am confident, would have been thrilled with her performances of their music. Stoska, from all reports, was a fine actress. She lived through turbulent times, including Germany during the dark days preceding the outbreak of the 1939 war. She was an American singer of integrity, giving the highest measure of musical excellence in countless performances all over the world.

The afternoon the old issues of *Opera News* arrived started a new chapter in my life with opera. The past few months appear to be the beginning of a quest to do justice to an interesting and important subject. Alan Walker, the English critic, suggests that great works of art do not become great. They are great whether we realize it or not. Often a newly discovered "great" from the past was there all the time. Whether we, the civilized world, knew it or not is in a sense beside the point. One might also say that a great singer is like a work of art, indeed perhaps *is* a work of art. Sometimes the discovery of that work of art is long overdue.

*Garry E. Clarke is chair of the Department of Music at Washington College. He is the author of* Essays on American Music.

# ALUMNI REPORTER

## Statue Honors Nicholson '36

A crowd of 400 gathered in Chestertown on October 3 to unveil a statue honoring William B. "Swish" Nicholson '36. The statue, sculpted by Ken Herlihy, depicts the Kent County native who played baseball for the Philadelphia Athletics, the Phillies, and the Chicago Cubs, completing his swing.

At WC, Nicholson was known as a great athlete and bright student with movie star looks and quiet good-natured charisma. His rise from country boy to baseball major-leaguer gave him legendary status among WC alumni.

The statue stands next to the Town Hall. A bronze tablet states "This statue of a baseball great is placed as a tribute to the man, as an inspiration to the nation's youth and as a reminder that sport is important to the American dream."

*Board chairman Louis L. Goldstein '35 (left) with Nicholson at statue unveiling.*

*Fore! The Benefit of Washington College: Alumni representing five decades were reunited at the third annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament at Turf Valley on October 3. The tournament, organized by John Tansey '73 and Tim Norris '81, helped raise alumni spirits and $2,400 to benefit the endowment of the Benjamin A. Johnson '11 Lifetime Fitness Center. The tournament champions (left to right) were Peter Murphy '76, Matt Cordrey '75 and Bill Williams '76.*

## Four Join Athletic Hall of Fame

John Edward Fitzgerald '33, Robert V. Shriver '73, and Joseph M. Wilson '79 were inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame at the annual ceremony on October 3.

Homer Smoot, Class of 1897, who played for St. Louis Cardinals and was reported to be "the Eastern Shore's Ted Williams" was inducted posthumously.

Ed Fitzgerald was cited as an outstanding first baseman on a baseball team that Coach Tom Kibler considered one of WC's best. Ed also contributed to the success of the basketball program for three years. Ed's athletic ability earned him a chance to play professional baseball for the Washington Senators farm team.

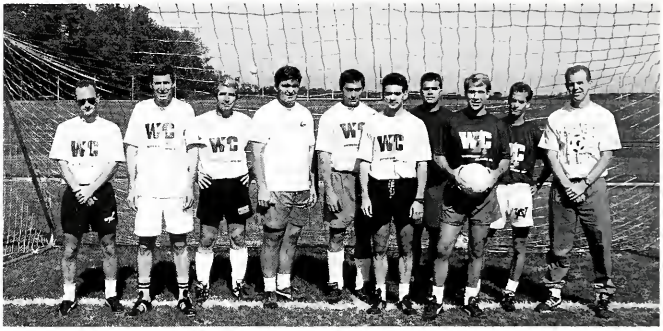
Bob Shriver is considered one of the finest midfielders ever to grace the Sho'men playing field. Bob played from 1970 through 1973, serving as captain his last two years. He was selected All-American and All-South Middle Atlantic All Conference, and participated in the USILA North/South game.

Joe Wilson was an exemplary student-athlete. Besides being one of the most outstanding basketball performers to play for WC, he was the first WC student to be awarded an NCAA postgraduate scholarship, which enabled Joe to attend law school.

The Hall of Fame Committee, chaired by Walt Brandt '43, also honored the student-coached and undefeated 1947 soccer team.

*New Hall of Famers: Bob Shriver '73, Joe Wilson '79, and Ed Fitzgerald '33.*

*Alumni who returned to row in the Alumni Games (from left to right): Dianna Holden '91, Matt Conaty '92, Charlie Pilkington '92, Beth Speer '91, Sean Kennedy '89, Schaefer Reese '87, Whit Maroney '91, Joe Watkins '88, Tom Conaty '89, Will Brandenburg '92, Randy Capel '89, Tina Smith '90, and Chad Bentley '89.*



*The Alumni Soccer team (left to right): Brian Mueller '83, Fred Couper '70, Bruce Jaeger '66, Alan Lerch '89, Tom Bowman '90, Dave Reamer '88, John Seal '92, John Thomas '90, Ken Hutchins '91, and Coach Todd Helbling.*

*The Alumnae Field Hockey team (left to right): Donna White '91, Linda Anders '89, Jenifer Blenckstone '92, Christine Mendez '92, Carole Reece '90 sit in front of the Sho'men.*

*The Alumni Baseball team: (kneeling) Scott Riley '90, Grame Wildman '92, Vincent Sanudo '92, Chris Long '90, John Morrall '92, and Bill Gerwig '82. (standing) Coach Ed Athey '47, Robert Spaeth '87, Hal McBee '92, Vinny Bacchetta '50 , Geoff Kurtzman '77, Pat Jones '84, Sandy Vujanic '86, Chris Rosfelder '89, Buck Griffin '30, Al Streelman '69, Pete Morgan '84, Larry Brandt '87, Bruce Katz '76, Steve Raynor '73, and Alan Lerch '89.*

# CLASS NOTES

'30 Coach Howard "Buck" Griffin threw the first pitch in the Alumni vs. Sho'men baseball game on October 3. The "old men" creamed the undergrads, 5 to 1.

'34 Dr. Charles B. Clark was the inaugural speaker when Walt Griffin, his friend and colleague, became president of Limestone College in South Carolina on October 10. Charley's lastest book, *Company C, 12th Iowa Infantry Regiment, U.S.A.*, which he co-authored with Roger Bowen, joins his other scholarly publications about the Civil War.

'35 Harry Rhodes has been named treasurer of the board of directors at the Memorial Hospital at Easton, Inc.

'36 Fans of all ages stood in line to collect William "Swish" Nicholson autographs when a statue of the Kent County native, WC alumnus, and baseball star was unveiled in Chestertown on October 3.

'37 During Robert B. White's five-year tenure as president, the Salisbury branch of Maryland Food Bank completed a $550,000 building to store food for the needy and often moved over 250,000 pounds of food per month. His presidency having expired this year, he remains on the Board as secretary.

'39 Clarence Kibler and his wife, Mary, enjoyed a 3,800 mile trip through the United Kingdom and Ireland this summer. The trip included a tour of England, Wales, and Scotland (North Isle of Skye), ferry from Bristol to Waterford, a tour of Ireland, ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, Wales, and proceeded on to Scotland where they saw beautiful rugged hills, many castles, and toured a Scotch distillery "with samples."

'41 Anne Turner Landry has been living on the Western Shore since January and has to admit, "I really like it. It's still wonderful to come back to visit though."

Dorothy Leonard, retired principal of Easton High School, was recognized this summer for her volunteer work at the Regional Cancer Center. She is able to talk with cancer patients frankly about the disease and its treatments because she was once in their shoes. She tells them, "If I can do it, you can do it."

'43 James M. Aycock is a retired attorney who enjoys golf and traveling.

"Norma" Jean Wood Garrison, retired from teaching, holds a doctorate in education and has written a book on children's war fiction that is on display in the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Imperial War Museum, and the Library of Congress. She enjoys "reading, English history, geneology, golf with the 9-Holers, bridge, correspondence with a couple WC pals, and who could forget eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and a great husband of 48+ years." Though she and Mort '42 sold their Eastern Shore hideaway in 1992, they plan to return for Reunion in May.

Ellen Peters James plans to recruit her classmate Betty Dockhorn Davis to help promote their 50th Reunion in May.

Ted Kurze, a retired neurosurgeon and medical school professor, married Joan Sutherland Seaver in New Zealand. They plan to divide their time between homes in Chestertown and Pacific Palisades, CA.

When Donald S. McClellan reported earlier that he was planning to cruise his sailboat around the world, the Class Notes editors wondered in print if he was looking for crew. We have since received a four-page job description, postmarked St. Croix, that reads like a good sea story. We will copy this for anyone interested. Don plans to return for his 50th Reunion in May and we presume that job interviews could be scheduled to coincide with this trip.

After graduation Charles H. Meiser served in the Navy, mostly in the South Pacific with Fleet Air Wing #1. He then received a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware and went to work for Thiokol Corp. developing solid rocket fuels like the one in the space shuttle. He also worked for Textile Research Industries. He holds four patents. Retired in 1989, Charles spends his winters in Florida and his summers in Yardley, PA.

Spence Robinson looks forward to the 50th Reunion party on Saturday, May 22. His old friends, Walt and Babe Harris Brandt, have graciously offered to host this party for their classmates.

Naomi Russell Taylor retired in 1988 after 35 years in the Departments of Anatomy and Neuroscience in the Johns Hopkins Medical School. Though Naomi is moving this November to Oceanside, CA, to be near her son and daughter and seven grandchildren, she writes that she looks forward to returning to WC for Reunion and "renewing friendships."

Since 1943 Robert "Bob" Thawley served in the Navy and traveled the country in his various financial and management capacities for Montgomery Ward and Peterson Howell & Heather. He retired in 1977. Bob has been married to Ellen Edwards '45 since 1943. Their daughter, Ellen Thawley Madden, graduated from WC in 1969.

'48 Clayton E. McGran, a retired dentist, writes from Austin, TX, that he is "filming a 12-episode Silver Time Soap Opera about life in the fast lane in a retirement home. If it sells, I'll be rich and famous! As an actor I have appeared in several Austin Productions and videos."

'50 Ray Parrett, since retiring in 1975, has been enjoying family and friends at his homes in California, Florida, North Carolina, and Maryland. He has managed to squeeze in occasional trips abroad and remains active in civic and political affairs.

William C. Tomlinson, retired from the administration of Montgomery College in 1983 and from the Naval Reserves in 1986,

is teaching math part-time at Prince George's Community College. He is active in the Lions Club and spends his free time reading or puttering with shrubs and flowers at his cabin, or "small farmette," in WV.

'53 Clarence "Cy" Rollins, one-time chemist and president of Emulsion Products Co., is now practicing his hobby of locksmithing. Cy and his wife, Mary Annette Applegarth '52, have five children and nine grandchildren.

Margaret Peacock Pruitt, who received her master's in education in 1975, teaches highly able students at Snow Hill Middle School.

'56 Howard D. Morrison retired after working 36 years for the Central Office of the Baltimore County school system. Howard and his wife, Carol Kniseley '57, have traveled extensively in North America and Europe. Home will be Ontario, Canada and Ocean Pines, MD.

The Rev. Olin J. Shockley, Jr., senior pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Salisbury, MD, was honored by the Peninsula Annual Conference in June for 35 years of service as an ordained minister.

'57 The brothers Messenger, Don '57 and Guy '64, played together in the third Annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament. At the reception following, Don presented President Trout with a $1,000 check, a donation from the Eastern Shore Society of Maryland of which he is a member.

Carol Kniseley Morrison retired after 25 years of teaching middle school social studies in Howard County. Carol and her husband, Howard '56, have three children and five grandchildren. Now living in Ellicott City, with a second home in Ontario, they plan a move back to the Eastern Shore.

'59 Charles F. Downs retired from state government in October 1991. He continues to do volunteer work with the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and the City of Waynesboro, VA.

Jim Pickett has retired after 32 years of teaching art and Spanish in Baltimore County.

'60 On weekends Dave Fenimore volunteers at Days End Farm Horse Rescue in Mt. Airy, MD. He works with horses that have been abused and neglected to rehabilitate them and find good homes for them.

'62 Miriam Ellis Mahowald is a horticulture consultant with IPM Consulting Service for Healthier Landscapes in Ellicott City, MD.

Warren H. Milberg is vice president for special programs at the Compex Corporation, a professional and technical services firm in Alexandria, VA.

'63 Michael Perna contributed essays on Miguel de Unamuno, Manual Machado, and José Maria Valverde to *Twentieth-Century Spanish Poets, First Series*, which he edited as Vol. 108 of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* (Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1991).

'67 Samuel L. Heck was admitted to the Kent County Bar Association in a circuit court ceremony September 11 and was welcomed by Circuit Court Judge J. Frederick Price '72. Sam attended WC and holds a B.A. degree from the University of the South and a J.D. from Washington & Lee. He is the son of Ermyn Jewell Heck '24 and the late Preston Patterson "Pete" Heck '24, who practiced law at 111 Court Street in Chestertown, where Sam is practicing now.

'68 George Baily is Financial Manager for the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor. His office is responsible for the financial management of numerous components within the Department, handling fiscal operations for more than 4,000 employees and total budgets in excess of $500,000,000. George was one of 75 federal employees selected to participate in a one-year program sponsored by the Council for Excellence in Government.

Henry Biddle and his wife, Kathleen Agnew '70, have been teaching in the Wicomico County School System since 1970. Henry teaches science in the Gifted and Talented program.

Nancy M. Coch, in Manhattan, continues her studies in modern psychoanalysis. She has worked at various professions, including caretaking for a wildlife refuge. "To date I've raised or cared for 29 red dobermans, one snake, two Asian elephants, many sheep, lamas, and one yak. I look forward to being on David Letterman's 'Stupid Pet Tricks' one night."

Dr. Harold D. Jopp, Jr., an attorney, is Director of Graduate Studies for the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. He has written and edited many books about the Eastern Shore.

Mike "Mickey" Fineberg is considering returning to WC to talk to psychology majors about opportunities in his field of industrial psychology. He saw John Boddie '65 at the alumni reception at the Brandywine River Museum last fall. He drove through Chestertown this summer and was "really impressed with the development on campus and the preservation of the original buildings." He wants to attend his 25th Reunion in May and would like to hear from others who may attend.

During the last 25 years Judy Hammer has earned an M.A. and M.B.A. She has had careers as a college administrator, a computer marketing rep, and a process control computer analyst, and is currently a financial consultant for Metlife Financial Services. Judy is living in Annapolis after eight years in Alaska.

Susan Smith O'Connor and her husband recently adopted a two-year old boy from Kiev, Ukraine. Andrew Alexander now enjoys playing with his sisters, Sarah and Katie. Sue, who holds a doctorate in education, teaches special education in Baltimore County and has a private testing/consulting business called "A Step Ahead."

Charles F. Skipper was recently married and spent his honeymoon on a Caribbean cruise. He is an assistant principal in the Anne Arundel school system.

Benjamin T. Whitman is an educational administrator with more than 20 years of experience in program design, evaluation and implementation, staff supervision, market analysis and fiscal management. He is associate director for the Secondary School Admission Test Board in Princeton, NJ.

'68 In June, C. Daniel Saunders was appointed to the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland by the state Court of Appeals. Dan has practiced law in Chestertown since 1973.

'70 On Saturday, May 23, Jean Hays Walker and her daughter, Laura, marched together in the commencement processional at Western Maryland College. Jean, who earned her bachelor's degree in history from WC, was awarded a master's degree in counseling. Laura received her bachelor's degree in psychology.

'71 Maria Rampolla Bowman, who taught for 20 years in Mountainside, NJ, married Capt. William K. Bowman, Jr., a pilot for USAir, on May 26, 1991. They have moved to Coraopolis, PA, where they live in a log home that Bill built. They sell log home kits on the side. Maria is hoping to hear from old roommates Marcia Millette Blann and Elaine Duffy Brown.

This summer Michael J. Carew joined the Weinstein Appraisal Group as an associate appraiser. Michael has worked in the field of commercial/industrial real estate brokerage, management, and development in the York, PA, area during the last eight years.

'72 Elizabeth "Betsy" Murray Barry writes that her "life after graduation can be

## Marriages

Charles F. Skipper '68 to Susan Lee McFarland, recently.

J. Barry Cocoziello '70 to Deborah Cennamo on August 21, 1992.

Maria Rampolla '71 to William K. Bowman, Jr. on May 26, 1991.

William S. Steelman '80 to Sue Hertz on June 13, 1992.

Kimberly W. Harquail '82 to Jeffrey M. Todd during May, 1992. Amy Taylor '83 was a bridesmaid.

Leslie G. Knapp '82 to Joseph G. Marini on November 2, 1991.

John Bartley Koehler '86 to Rhonda K. Waller during August, 1992.

Laura Lee Bazzell '89 to Michael Brian Burchell on May 9, 1992.

Beth Bozic '90 to Jason Ebrite '90 on October 10, 1992.

Emily L. Lott '90 to Paul A. Miller '88 on July 11, 1992. Attendants included Felicia Shakman '91, Valerie Walbert '90, Michele Volansky '90, and Michael McGuane '88.

Allison J. Tucker '91 to Michael James Harrington, Jr. '91 on April 25, 1992. Best man was Alexander Henry '91. David Kimbro '91 was an usher.

Eric McCormack '92 to Brigitte A. Galford on November 19, 1991.

Deeann Pinczok '92 to Scott Jones '89 on August 15, 1992. David Puskar '89 was an usher. Attending the wedding were Tom Auvil '89, Claudia Baldwin '92, Eric Becker '89, Beth Munder-Becker '88, Bill Bors '89, Karen Brady '92, Margaret Doyle '92, Matt Giller '91, Kristy Hilgartner '92, Jennifer Jaeger '92, Tim Keehan '90, Beth Knieriem '92, Leslie Newcomb '92, Dave Repko '86, Darin Roser '90, Chris Rosfelder '88, and Ann Urban '90.

Donna Marie Waldron M'92 to William Anthony Sontag, Jr. on August 29, 1992.

## Births

Susan Smith O'Connor '68 and her husband have adopted a son, Andrew Alexander, aged 2, from Kiev, Ukraine. Andrew joins sisters Sarah and Katie.

Kris Kennedy '76, a son, Andrew Kennedy-Derkay, on May 6, 1992.

Roy Whitaker '76, a daughter, Charlotte, on May 11, 1991.

Ruth Christenson O'Brien '81, a son, Evan Christenson, on April 3, 1992.

Ruth Chisnell Macnamara '83, a daughter, Caitlin Grace, on July 2, 1992. Caitlin joins sister, Ellen, 3 1/2, and brother, Gregory, 2 1/2.

Jeffrey '84 and Jenny Hearn Kauffman '84, a son, Emmett Tyler, on May 20, 1992. He joins brother, Jeffrey, 5, and sister, Alexis, 3.

C. James '84 and Natalie Brown McKnight '84, a daughter, Emily Jo, on June 26, 1992.

Kay Montgomery Knopf '88, a son, Jamieson Patrick Knopf, Jr., on September 26, 1992.

Christine Wiant Funtenatto '90, a daughter, Jessica Lauren, on July 7, 1992.

neatly divided into two parts. The first ten years I spent working in the employee benefit field, designing and installing retirement plans and health plans. After getting married in 1981, I started the second part of my career, parenthood. As a result my days are spent driving car pool, helping with Brownies and Cub Scouts, and helping at school. I have not, however, become Marilyn Quayle!"

**'73** Debbie Goldstein's first children's book, *Boo and Rags*, the story of two Bouvier des Flanders dogs she rescued, will be published in 1993. The *Chattanooga Times* reported that this book would "make for a silver screen script that would make Benji bawl." Debbie works as a freelance journalist, specializing in dogs, horses, and law enforcement. "People interviews have become my forte, especially chats with senior citizens that focus on years past." Her interviews have been printed in many newspapers and her writing has earned numerous awards.

Michael Ludden is regional editor at the *Orlando Sentinel* in Florida. The divorced father of a three-year-old son says he "works too much, plays a lot of tennis, and is still playing r&b — too loud." Looking forward to his 20th Reunion, he says, "crabs and beer sounds pretty good right now."

John Tansey was named to the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Design Center in Baltimore. The NDC is a non-profit organization comprised of architects, landscape architects, engineers, and designers who donate their professional expertise to community groups seeking advice on projects that may improve the quality, function, and appearance of their neighborhoods. These projects include parks, playgrounds, community centers, and school rehabs. John is a landscape architect and works in the land development and construction business.

**'74** Gali Sanchez will direct the Sass & Associates campaign to advertise Umbro USA soccer apparel and equipment. He still finds time, however, to play the game and make music in Baltimore and Washington. Gali, who played soccer at WC, has served on the mayor's Hispanic Affairs Advisory Panel in Baltimore and volunteers to help urban Latino neighborhoods.

**'75** Matthew M. Cordrey announces the opening of his law office at 123 William Street in New York City. He also has an office in Summit, NJ. His hectic legal schedule, however, didn't interfere with the alumni golf tournament. Matt and his old friends Peter Murphy '76 and Billy Williams '76 walked away with the tournament championship.

As Caribbean Correspondent for the Associated Press, Kevin Noblet spends much of his time traveling in hot places including Haiti, Cuba, Colombia, Panama, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic. It makes him appreciate the time at home, in Puerto Rico, with wife, Joan, and children, Martha (8) and Andy (5).

Bill Walls is Family Court Judge in Harrington, DE. Bill is married to Catherine McTernan '77 and they have four children.

**'76** Kris E. Kennedy, MD, mother of two, maintains a practice in obstetrics and gynecology.

Roy Whitaker is leaving D.C. for New Hampshire where he will be teaching English literature (and coaching wrestling and lacrosse) at the White Mountain School. "I am putting my master's in English lit. to the test. After an eventful career in banking and construction, I am looking forward to the change."

Kerry Brian Flowers has become a partner with the law firm of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, Ravin and Davis of Woodbridge, NJ. Before joining the firm as an associate in

1988, Kerry was senior counsel to Times Equities, Inc., a New York-based property owner and developer. He still represents developers who have interests in NJ.

**'78** Gail A. Emow is stationed in Abilene, TX, as the Commanding Officer of a Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center. Gail was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and is scheduled for a transfer to New Orleans or Washington, D.C. in 1993.

**'79** Doug Lippoldt has taken a one-year assignment with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. He will help the OECD set up a program of labor technical assistance for Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union. His wife, Danielle Kennedy '82, and daughters Erika (4) and Rachel (2), will join him in Paris. Doug is on leave from his position with the U.S. Department of Labor.

**'80** Sallie Lewis Miller has just moved to a newly-built home in Finksburg, MD. "I have lost track of many of my WC buddies, so please drop me a line at 3954 Christiana Ct., Finksburg, MD 21048."

Valerie Restifo, MA, MS, RN is director of special programing with the American Health Care Institute, Inc. in Silver Spring, MD. The Institute is a nationally recognized provider of continuing education for mental health and nursing specialties.

Joy Chamberlin Wemmer is a manager with Discovery Toys. Joy assists parents in choosing high-quality developmental toys to help their children develop important life skills.

**'81** Lori Moritz Bocrie is a free lance professional model. She lives in Virginia Beach and is a partner in her husband's carpet business.

In August, Alan Luthy and his wife, Kathy Kraus '82, traveled from the swamps of Western Florida with three of their Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and their two children to attend the Talbot Kennel Club Dog Show in Maryland. The long trip turned out to be worthwhile, for the Luthys came away from the show loaded with prizes and ribbons won by their dogs.

**'82** Elizabeth Edwardsen was appointed correspondent in charge of the Associated Press bureau in Portland, ME. Elizabeth was on AP's Albany, NY, staff for five years and covered the State Capitol.

W. Winston Elliott III is president of the Free Enterprise Education Center, a nonprofit that works with teachers and high school students to promote private property, free markets, and limited government.

**'83** Tim Cloud works for Alban Tractor Co. selling Caterpillar construction equipment. He is still active in lacrosse, "coaching youth leagues as well as playing from time to time." Tim is married with one child, Kaitlin Marie. He reports that Dave Mehrizi '86 is married.

Melanie Pullen Gness has been appointed assistant vice president-state government relations in the Legislative Department of the Association of American Railroads. In this position she provides leadership on state issues, represents the industry at national organizations of state governments, and acts as an advocate within the AAR on state concerns and issues.

Actress Suzanne Henderson had the lead in "CATS" for four years in Austria. She is now in the cast of the musical "Grand Hotel" and living in New York City.

During the past ten years Sally Motycka has worked as a professional and freelance artist, traveled in Europe, and ended up as chairperson of fine arts at East Catholic High School in CT. This year she began teaching art at Plainsville High School in Connecticut while she continues to work on her master's at the Rhode Island School of Design. "I was sorry to miss Gerry Smith's wedding party. I hope we can reconnect!"

Heather "Hep" Pusey returned to Chestertown two years ago and is teaching English to juniors and seniors. She has a six-year old daughter, Courtney.

Virginia White has been with Churchill Distributors three years as a sales consultant in the hotel/restaurant division. She recently spent the weekend with Sandy Evans Meyers '81, her husband, and two children. "I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Tenth Reunion."

**'84** John J. Darlington's firm, Wheat First Securities, sponsored a Seminar On Basic Investments for WC students in October.

Harris B. Friedberg of Mt. Laurel, NJ, has been promoted to assistant vice president of United Jersey Bank/South N.A., headquartered in Cherry Hill. Harris will continue with his responsibilities as commercial banking officer.

Lucille Hughes Wagner has been appointed director of development for the Hannah More Center in Reisterstown. She previously served as director of alumni at Friends School.

**'86** David Joyce left the Navy Department to become a senior budget analyst with the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service. Before leaving the Navy, he toured a Soviet-made Tarantul I Class Missile Patrol Combatant.

"Constance Stuart Larrabee: World War II Photo Journal," which premiered at the National Museum of Women in 1989, is traveling nationally under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service until 1995. The photographer is an honorary alumnus.

**'88** Joanna Wilson Austin was promoted to exhibit arts specialist for the Delaware State Museum in July. She is assisting the curator of exhibits in the design and planning of "the Spirit of 1917: Delaware Goes to War," a World War I exhibit to open in November. "My husband and I are about to break ground to start our new house, and I still sew in my spare time."

Hilary Scheer Gerhardt is the regional equestrian editor for ArCom Publications which includes the *Times Democrat's* Horse and Field Sports section. Hilary has had extensive equestrian experience riding and competing on local and national levels.

Joan I. McWilliams has joined the staff of Turner Pension Consultants, Inc. an Annapolis firm specializing in the design and administration of retirement plans. The company handles retirement plans for more than 500 businesses throughout Maryland, D.C., and Northern Virginia.

**'89** Marine 1st Lt. William E. Edwards has been deployed with the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, HI, to the Western Pacific. The Marines and sailors of this command, also known as "America's Battalion," will participate in extensive training and readiness exercises, both on and off the island of Okinawa, Japan.

Andrea Kehoe earned a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University Journalism School. She is staff writer for the editorial services division of Adams Sandler, Inc., a marketing communications firm with offices in Baltimore and Rockville. Kevin O'Keefe '74 is president of the firm.

Rachel Smith received her J.D. degree from Washington University School of Law. She is studying for the Missouri bar exam and plans to become a prosecuting attorney.

**'90** Sheri Christopher Darling is employed with Channel Marker, Inc., a community rehabilitation program for the mentally ill. The program serves Maryland's Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester counties and focuses on the development of independent living skills through individual goal plans.

Christine Wiant Funtenatto and her husband, Michael, are living in Rota, Spain. They are the parents of a baby girl.

**'91** Suzanne M. Hewes took a three-week trip to Europe and came home reluctantly. She is working at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, MD, and attending graduate school at Hood College for a degree in biomedical science.

**'92** Maria Banashak is an aerobics instructor at Bally's Holiday Spa and a sales representative at Nordstrom while she attends graduate school at Loyola College.

John Beachley works for National Marine Underwriters in Annapolis, MD.

Adriane A. Beane is an accounting clerk for Allied-Signal Aerospace Co. in Columbia, MD.

Jennie Blenckstone is teaching kindergarten and coaching field hockey at Villa Julie College. She is also playing club field hockey for Baltimore.

Mary Colleen Blenckstone, Sidney Nice '91, and Jean McCall '90 spent part of the summer traveling throughout the British Isles.

Lara T. Buchanan is a claims representative for National Insurance in Annapolis, MD.

Amy Caddle is a sales manager for Rainbow Imports, Inc. in Keyport, NJ. Amy is interested in organizing a Lesbian and Gay Alumni Chapter for WC. Anyone interested in participating can write to her at 53 Elizabeth St., Keyport, NJ 07735.

Darryl C. Calloway is a seventh grade world geography teacher at Centreville Middle School, Centreville, MD.

M. Heath Cooley is a student at James Madison University in Virginia.

Ben Chatfield is a programmer for Computer Sciences Corp, Applied Technology Division.

Jennifer Clark is curatorial secretary for the Baltimore Museum of Art while she applies to law schools.

Sherelee Davies and her husband have moved to Ft. Worth, TX. He is flying for Delta Airlines and Sherelee is teaching ninth and eleventh grade English.

Julianne Dolde is a student of social work at the University of Maryland. She works at the A.F. Whitsitt Center, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Chestertown, and the HCA Rockford Center, a private mental health facility in Newark, DE.

Moira Feely wrote this summer that she had been offered two jobs, one at Turner Broadcasting and the other with Shearson Lehman. She was preparing to study for her broker's license.

Kathleen E. Feeney is a graduate student at the Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Cynthia Fields-Belanger and her husband, Victor, are living in Cambridge, MA.

Tracy L. Greenwalt is advertising sales agent for Tom Davis seasonal sports talk shows on Baltimore television.

Patricia Anne Hawthorne is a graduate student at Syracuse University.

Stephanie Hess is production assistant for Circle Repertory Company in New York City.

Kristin Hilgartner is a physical ed. and health teacher at Seton Keough High School in Baltimore. She also coaches j.v. volleyball and lacrosse.

Rose M. Jarboe worked this summer with Queen Anne's County's Department of Social Services in the sexual abuse treatment program. She also assisted the WC psychology dept. with their graduate research methods course. This fall Rose began working for the Caroline County Dept. of Social Services, AFDC welfare restructuring program, in Denton, MD.

Todd Kagler is a customer service representative for Bindagraphics, Inc. in Baltimore.

Stefanie Linn Lee is assistant to the vice president, trust department, 1st American Bank in Washington, D.C.

Hal McBee Jr. is vice president for Northeast Health Management in Columbia, MD.

Kimberly Millender interned for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington this summer and is attending the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Jeffrey Rexford has headed out to Portland, Oregon, to help his brother build his house. He plans to be home in Westport, CT, by Thanksgiving.

Dave Searles is president and historian, American Heritage Service, Inc, in Broadhead, WI.

Mary Speer is a student at the University of Florida.

Karen Stritehoff is a discharge planner for Gundry/Glass Hospital Mental Health in Catonsville, MD.

Judy Summers is a sixth grade language arts teacher at Chaloner Middle School in Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Janviere Thuman is a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University.

Kris Wallenburg is a graduate student at Old Dominion University studying biological oceanography, particularly the aquaculture of the soft shell blue crab.

## *Deaths*

William J. "Red" Burk '30 of Phoenix, AZ, died July 28, 1992. Red worked in coaching, real estate, and sports writing. He was sports editor of the Chester (PA) *Times* and the *Arizona Republic* and later owned two Delaware Co. (PA) newspapers. An outstanding athlete while at WC, he was a member of WC's Athletic Hall of Fame. His second wife, Helen Tyler Russell '30, died in 1991. He is survived by his brother, Jack Burk '50, one sister, one son, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Albert G. Bruehl '43 of Upperco, MD, died on March 24, 1989. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Florence.

Walter R. Hitchcock '50 of Westminister, MD, died on September 25, 1992 after a brief illness. Walt managed Druid Ridge Cemetery in Pikesville, MD, for 19 years and then managed Parkwood Cemetery in Baltimore until his retirement in 1983. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, one daughter, and his brother, John Hitchcock '48.

Paul W. Nicewarner '50 of Ft. Wayne, IN died September 15, 1992. Paul owned and operated Jim K's No. 1 Pizza in Ft. Wayne and he is survived by his wife Nancy Gray Nicewarner '51, one sister, and one brother.

Thomas L. Hederman '53 of La Jolla, CA died May 28, 1991. He is survived by one sister.

Carol Oakerson LaMotte '56 of Red Bank, NJ, died after a short illness on September 15, 1992. Carol was assistant librarian at Red Bank Catholic High School and was active in that high school's Alumni Association. She is survived by one son, one daughter, her mother, a brother, two sisters, and two grandchildren.

# On AIDS And Alumni: "Silence Equals Death"

*by Douglas M. Rose '86*

Here is some news you're not likely to find in the "Class Notes" column:

One friend calls to tell me that his partner has tested positive for HIV. A woman calls to inform me that a mutual friend is in the hospital, dying of AIDS. A colleague reveals to me over lunch that she's given up dating entirely: it's just too dangerous. Another friend worries that he may be "sick" every time he catches a cold. Another is depressed: she's just lost someone to AIDS—the third person this year. A couple I know worries about how to talk to their child about love and sex in this "age of the plague." I visit the doctor and learn that I, too, am infected with HIV.

We are all alumni of Washington College. HIV and AIDS affect all of us. Why haven't *you* heard about it? Many people believe that they cannot speak openly about their situation. They risk losing their jobs; losing their insurance; losing their homes; losing their friends. They might be right. But if we don't start talking soon, some of us risk losing our lives.

During our days in Chestertown, one of the most important lessons we learned was a sense of community. We belonged to many small communities: writers, artists, scientists, international students, sororities, fraternities, lesbians, gays, athletes, Republicans, Democrats, Christians. These communities comprised the greater community of students, professors, administrators, and trustees. As students, we were also taught the importance of contributing to our communities.

After college, we joined various communities in the larger world. We also became members of the great community of WC alumni—that vast network of good citizens with a shared experience. As such, we joined other former students in efforts to make valuable contributions to the society beyond WC. Today, however, our ability to contribute is at risk.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) are affecting all of our communities. With increasing frequency, we must confront HIV and AIDS in our daily lives. We are discovering that HIV and AIDS affect men and women of all ages, ethnicities, orientations, and social classes, alumni and alumnae of the college, people we don't want to live without.

We must put a stop to this trend. I appeal to your sense of community and civic duty. I urge you to join me in working toward ending "the plague." Here's what you can do:

**1. Educate.** Educate yourself, your families, and others in your community about HIV, how the virus is transmitted, and how to prevent transmission. Learn how to provide care and support to people with HIV (PWHIVs) and people with AIDS (PWAs). Information is free and widely available from physicians, libraries, federal and local governments, and HIV/AIDS service organizations.

**2. Donate.** After you've made your annual contribution to WC, set aside philanthropic dollars and/or volunteer time for HIV/AIDS care and research organizations. Consider a donation to Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) or the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), two of the largest care and research organizations, respectively, in the nation. Seek out local HIV/AIDS service organizations and ask how you can help.

**3. Advocate.** Support legislation that prevents discrimination, extends health care coverage, and devotes tax dollars to medical research. Support advocacy groups such as Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, ACT-UP, and the PWA Coalition.

**4. Initiate.** As a graduate of WC, you are undoubtedly a leader in one or more communities. Use your position and your power of persuasion to initiate action and encourage others to join in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Members of the current WC community share my concern about HIV and AIDS. They have invited me to speak with the students on December 1, National Day Without Art/AIDS Awareness Day. At that time, I will tell the students my story and talk to them about how to prevent further spread of HIV and AIDS. I will also challenge them to protect their own health and to join in efforts to find a cure.

I challenge you, the alumni, to do the same. The AIDS epidemic has the potential to unravel the fabric of a community that was so carefully woven during our years in Chestertown. Already, many talented alumni are being lost. The lives of families, friends, and neighbors are at stake. I hope that we will use every resource at our disposal to match student commitment and to provide community leadership. Let's bring an end to this crisis.

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*Doug Rose is Director of Marketing and Communications at the American Council for the Arts. He is also a person with HIV and an AIDS activist.*

# *College Events*

## November 27 - 29

ACT performance of "Alice in Wonderland." Norman James Theatre, 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights, 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

## December 1

"HIV and Me." Douglas M. Rose '86 discusses his personal experience with HIV and responsible sexuality in the age of AIDS. Hynson Lounge, 7:30 p.m. Reception at O'Neill Literary House after talk.

## December 2

Sections of the AIDS Quilt will be on display in the Casey Academic Center Gallery.

## December 4 - 5

Renaissance Christmas Feast. Hynson Lounge, 7:00 p.m.

## December 6

Washington College Jazz Band concert. Tawes Theatre, 4 p.m.

## December 11

Washington College Community Chorus Holiday Concert. Norman James Theatre, 8 p.m.

Kent-Queen Anne's Alumni Christmas Party, Geddes-Piper House, 5-7 p.m. For more information call Arlene Lee Hawkridge '62 at (410) 348-2234.

## December 11-12

Wild Goose Classic basketball tournament.

## January 20

Spring semester begins.

## January 27

The Washington College Concert Series presents Violinist Kyung Sun Lee. Tawes Theatre, 8:00 p.m. General admission $10.

## February 20

Alumni Council Meeting.
Alumni Council/Board luncheon.
George Washington's Birthday Convocation, 2 p.m.
For information on the Birthday Ball please contact the Student Affairs Office at 778-7752.

## March 4

The Washington College Concert Series presents The Ravel Trio, Tawes Theatre, 8 p.m.

For more information about campus events, contact Jessica Davies, Special Events Coordinator, (800) 422-1782, ext. 7849.

For a complete schedule of winter athletic events, call Sarah Feverherm, Sports Information Director, (800) 422-1782, ext. 7238.

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# DONOR'S PROFILE:

## JOHN DANZ

**HOME:** Towson, Maryland.

**PROFESSION:** President of Oxford Capital Management, an investment counseling firm.

**GIVING LEVEL:** 1782 Society. He recently donated his collection of books relating to Maryland history, economy, and culture. The collection is conservatively valued at $40,000.

**FAVORITE PASTIME:** Browsing book-stores.

**PROFILE:** Mr. Danz, a native of Maryland who was graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in history, is a bibliophile who has accumulated an extensive collection of books that reflect his interest in Maryland and history, particularly economic history. Topics range from Maryland's corn and flour exchange of the mid-19th century, to Maryland's ecology, to the works of writer H. L. Mencken. He browsed used book stores in downtown Baltimore and all over the country to amass his collection of primary material. The emphasis was always on quality, not quantity.

**WHY HE GAVE:** Limited shelf space, and serendipity. "I had collected more than 700 volumes, half of which were in the attic. I decided to give the collection to a small college where they could be used and well-cared for, and where this collection would be meaningful." A business associate introduced him to College Trustee John Moag '77, who introduced him to President Charles H. Trout. "It turned out to be a great fit."